

Post-mortem: Russian tycoon Berezovsky died from hanging



Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky talking to the media in London.
(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

LONDON (AP) — A post-mortem examination found that self-exiled Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky died from hanging, and there was nothing pointing to a violent struggle, British police said Monday.

Thames Valley Police said that further tests, including toxicology examinations, will be carried out. The force did not specify whether the 67-year-old businessman hanged himself.

A forensic examination of Berezovsky's home will continue for several days, police added.

Once one of Russia's richest men and a Kremlin powerbroker, Berezovsky fled to Britain in 2001 and claimed political asylum in the country after a bitter falling out with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He had since been a vocal critic of the Kremlin.

Berezovsky's body was found by an employee on the bathroom floor at his upscale England home on Saturday. The employee called an ambulance after he forced open the bathroom door, which was locked from the inside. Police said the employee was the only person in the house when Berezovsky's body was discovered. □



Protesters huddle under tarps as snow falls in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, March 25, 2013. Throngs of people formed a line in front of the Supreme Court over the weekend, hoping for one of the roughly 50 seats reserved for the public to witness arguments in the landmark same-sex marriage case that begins today.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

The cold and wet wait to hear same-sex marriage cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The most expensive ticket to "The Book of Mormon" on Broadway: \$477. The face value of a great seat for this year's Super Bowl: \$1,250. Guaranteed seats to watch the U.S. Supreme Court hear this week's gay marriage cases: about \$6,000. Tickets to the two arguments that begin Tuesday are technically free. But getting them requires lining up days or hours ahead, or paying someone else to. The first people got in line Thursday, bringing the price of saving a seat to around \$6,000.

For some, putting a value on the seats is meaningless. "It's just not possible," said Fred Sainz, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization, which began employing two people to stand in line

Thursday.

The court will hear arguments Tuesday over California's ban on same-sex marriage. On Wednesday, the court will take up the federal Defense of Mar-

riage Act, the 1996 federal law that defines marriage as between one man and one woman. Supporters and opponents of same-sex marriage say the cases are so potentially historic

that they want to be inside the courtroom to watch, no matter what the cost in time or money.

Part of the reason the seats are so coveted is the court doesn't allow TV broadcasts of its arguments, so coming in person is the only way to see the justices at work. The court has said it will release transcripts of the hearings as well as audio recordings roughly two hours after each case ends, but advocates say that's no substitute for being there. Seats, meanwhile, are at a premium because there aren't that many. The courtroom seats about 500 people, but seats are reserved for court staff, journalists and guests of the justices and lawyers arguing the case.



Nicole Hudgens, who is against same-sex marriage, waits in rainy weather in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, March 25, 2013.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

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Michael Hazelwood and his dog Dexter walk after a fresh snowfall Monday, March 25, 2013, in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

Spring snow closes US schools, cancels flights

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

HAMBURG, Pa. (AP) — Five days into spring, warm weather and budding flowers were just a rumor Monday as the East Coast endured another blast of winter. A wide-ranging storm that buried parts of the Midwest weakened as it moved east but still managed to carpet lawns and fields in a fresh layer of white. Many schools opened late or closed early, and hundreds of flights were canceled. The cold temperatures and miserable mixture of snow and rain had people longing for more agreeable weather. "I'm ready for flip flops," said Jessica Cunitz, 24 of Westchester County, N.Y., who stopped at a gas station along Interstate 78 in Pennsylvania to fill her overheating car with antifreeze. "It's supposed to be spring." In Maryland, Michael Pugh donned a wool coat, knit cap, waterproof pants and heavy boots to trudge more than a mile through four inches of wet snow to his bank in downtown Hagerstown, about 70 miles west of Baltimore. He pronounced the weather "dreadful." By this time of year, "I was hoping it'd be sunny and the weather breaking," said Pugh, a warehouse worker who turned 38 Monday. "Every day I think I can pack up the winter coat, and break out the spring clothes, and I can't."

Earlier, the storm walloped the Midwest, dumping a record 17 inches in Spring-

field, Ill., and a foot or more elsewhere in the state. Travel remained treacherous Monday afternoon, with Interstate 55 and 57 still covered in snow and ice, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Numerous vehicles were reported to be off roads, according to Illinois state police. In downtown Springfield, coffee-shop manager Mike Zengilani said food-delivery trucks were hours late. But he didn't think about closing.

"Everyone else closes, so it's good for us to be open," Zengilani said. "It's Monday, it's definitely slower, but we all made the effort to come in."

The system was little more than a nuisance by the time it reached the East Coast. Air travel saw the biggest impact, with nearly 600 flights canceled as of Monday afternoon, according to the FlightAware tracking service. Hardest-hit airports included those in New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Roadways, meanwhile, were mostly wet.

In Hamburg, Pa. — which has seen three here-and-gone snowfalls in little more than a week — carpet installer Seth Hanna drank coffee and surveyed the slush from a covered front porch. "We got these warm days a few weeks ago, and everybody got their hopes up. March is supposed to be out like a lamb but it's not doing it," said Hanna, 30. "I love the snow, but I'm ready for some warm spring weather." □

Kerry, Karzai thaw nations' cool relations

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

KABUL (AP) — Eager to overcome a bout of bickering, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Afghan President Hamid Karzai made a show of unusual unity between their two nations on Monday. The friendly display came as the U.S. military ceded control of its last detention facility in Afghanistan, ending a longstanding irritant in relations.

Kerry arrived in the Afghan capital of Kabul on an unannounced visit amid concerns that Karzai may be jeopardizing progress in the war against extremism with anti-American rhetoric. After a private meeting, Kerry said he and Karzai were "on the same page" on security and reconciliation issues and brushed aside suggestions that relations were in peril.

Karzai infuriated U.S. officials earlier this month by accusing Washington of colluding with Taliban insurgents to keep Afghanistan weak even as the Obama administration pressed ahead with plans to hand

preted by the media. Kerry demurred on that point but said people sometimes say things in public that reflect ideas they have heard from others but don't necessarily agree with.

"I am confident the president (Karzai) does not believe the U.S. has any interest except to see the Taliban come to the table to make peace and that we are completely cooperative with the government of Afghanistan with respect to the protection of their efforts and their people," Kerry said. He noted that he had specifically raised the comment in question with Karzai and was satisfied with the response.

"We're on the same page," Kerry said. "I don't think there is any disagreement between us and I am very, very comfortable with the president's explanation."

For his part, Karzai said that he had been trying to make the point in his speech that if the Taliban really wanted foreign troops out of Afghanistan they should stop killing people.

In the March 9 speech, he berated the Taliban for

speech that the U.S. and the Taliban were working together "trying to frighten us into thinking that if the foreigners are not in Afghanistan, we would be facing these sorts of incidents."

Standing beside Kerry on Monday, Karzai said "today was a very good day," citing the turnover of the detention facility at the U.S.-run Bagram military base north of Kabul. He also expressed gratitude for the sacrifices made for his country by Americans.

At the same time, he defended allegations he has made about American troops or their local contractors abusing Afghan civilians. He said his complaints and criticism were not meant to "offend" anyone but rather to protect his people.

"When I say something publicly, it is not meant to offend our allies but to correct the situation," he said. "I am responsible for the protection of the Afghan people. I am the president of this country. It is my job to provide all the protection I can to the people of



Secretary of State John Kerry reaches to shake hands with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the end of their joint news conference at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Monday, March 25, 2013

(AP Photo/Jason Reed, Pool)

off security responsibility to Afghan forces and end NATO's combat mission by the end of next year.

At a joint news conference after their talks, Karzai told reporters that his comments in a nationally televised speech had been misinter-

preted by the media. Kerry demurred on that point but said people sometimes say things in public that reflect ideas they have heard from others but don't necessarily agree with.

Karzai suggested in the

this country."

Karzai has ordered U.S. special operations forces out of Wardak province, just outside Kabul, because of allegations that Afghans working with the commandos were involved in abusive behavior. □

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The cold and wet wait to hear same-sex marriage cases

Continued from front

After those people are seated, there will be about 100 seats Tuesday for lawyers who are members of the Supreme Court bar and at least 60 seats for the general public. An additional 30 seats for the public will rotate every three to five minutes. Tickets for all those seats are handed out on a first come, first served basis.

For the most controversial cases, the line to get those tickets can start to form about a day before. When the court heard three days of arguments on health care last year, the first people arrived three days early.

This time, the line started even earlier. By Monday morning there were more than three dozen people waiting, even as snow was falling. Several in the line said they were being paid, while others included college students and a substitute teacher. People in line said they passed the time talking and reading.

There were games of cards and at one point people watched the television show "The West Wing" on one person's computer. Those waiting said they'd made friends, and they

traded watching each other's chairs and sleeping bags to go for bathroom breaks or coffee. On Monday morning, one man came around offering others donuts.

the line when she realized it might be possible to get inside.

"I think there'll be a lot of my friends who will be very jealous," said Clarke, who intends to marry her part-

at the court to watch.

Ken Klukowski, a lawyer at the Family Research Council and a professor at Liberty University School of Law in Virginia, says these cases are "not just major,

For those willing to pay to get in, several Washington services will hold a person's place in line. One company charges \$36 per hour, another \$50, meaning the cost of a 5-day line stander comes in at \$6,000. John Winslow, the operations manager of Linestanding.com, which like most other line standing services is also a courier service, said his service would be holding places for 40 to 50 clients, a number of them lawyers. His group held about 35 places in line for the health care arguments last year, he said. Most people, he said, are starting their line stander 24 hours before, so they'll spend \$864 to attend. Linestanding.com's owner, Mark Gross, said for many of his clients, attending is personal.

"Health care was more about public policy and the direction that the country was going politically," Gross said. "But this really affects people in a personal way."

Kate Kendell, the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in California, contacted Linestanding.com three weeks before the argument to secure her space. □



Brigham Young University students, who are being paid to hold a spot in line outside the Supreme Court try to stay dry, in Washington, March 25, 2013.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Donna Clarke, 62, of Mountain View, Calif., arrived Sunday night and was 37th in line. The Army veteran who has been with her partner for 27 years had intended to just be part of a planned demonstration outside the court Tuesday, but she decided to join

ner in Massachusetts before they return to California, and said the Supreme Court's decision could be a "transformative moment" for the country.

Most of the people waiting in line are supporters of gay marriage. But opponents, too, said they intend to be

not just blockbuster, but historic." Klukowski said he expects to be getting up in the middle of the night to get in the separate line for members of the Supreme Court bar.

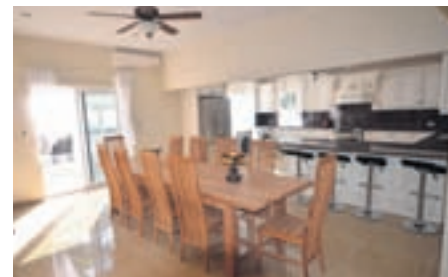
"No one knows how early but ridiculously early," Klukowski said.

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The TV room has large French Doors that lead to the oversized terrace, cascade swimming pool and recreation area, featuring three rooms with a bathroom and an outside shower. The garden is filled with palm trees and other tropical plants making this a true modern Caribbean dream house. All the bedrooms have separate air condition units and the entire house has a central unit which cools the TV room, kitchen, living and dining room. Furthermore the house has hurricane shutters and a separate laundry area. The house also features complete maids quarters, with private bathroom and three car garage with electronic doors. \$ 599,000



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\$338M Powerball jackpot winner validates NJ ticket

DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

PASSAIC, N.J. (AP) — The lone winning ticket for a \$338.3 million Powerball jackpot was validated Monday at the liquor store where it was purchased, but lottery officials said they don't yet know the winner's name.

The ticket holder went to Eagle Liquors in Passaic and had the ticket validated at around 4:30 p.m. for the fourth-largest jackpot in Powerball history, the New Jersey Lottery said.

The numbers drawn Saturday were 17, 29, 31, 52, 53 and Powerball 31. A lump sum cash payout would be \$221 million, or about \$152 million after taxes.

Liquor store employee Pravin Mankodia, 67, who has worked at Eagle for seven years, sold the ticket. "It feels awesome, we feel so lucky," he said. The store will get \$10,000. The owner said he'll probably use some of the money to fix up the store and also share some with employees.

As word spread that Eagle had sold the ticket, some patrons continued to dream about what could have been. □

Colorado: Gun linked; officials continue investigation

P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

(AP) — Colorado corrections chief Tom Clements and his wife were watching television when the doorbell rang last Tuesday night. Clements opened the door and was shot to death.

"My life was changed forever," Lisa Clements told hundreds of people, including corrections guards and officials from around the country, who gathered at a memorial service for her husband Monday.

Nearly a week after Clements' death, investigators in Colorado say the gun suspect Evan Ebel used in a shootout with authorities in Texas is the same one used to kill Clements. However, they don't know yet whether Ebel is the person who shot Clements, whether he acted alone and what motivated the slaying of a corrections' chief admired by prisoner advocates and prison guards alike. Authorities warned that could take some time. Until investigators determine whether Ebel, paroled from Colorado's prison system, in January, acted alone, "it's hard to know what his role was," Lt.

Jeff Kramer of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office told The Associated Press.

"He remains a suspect in our investigation, obviously, especially after receiving this confirmed link from Texas," he said.

No other suspects have been named.

Denver police suspect Ebel was involved in the killing of pizza deliveryman Nathan Leon. His body was found two days before Clements was killed.

Investigators also do not know whether the pizza box and Domino's Pizza shirt or jacket found in the car Ebel was driving when he was captured in Texas — similar to one spotted near Clements home — were used by the killer to persuade Clements to open the door of his home, Kramer said.

A federal law enforcement official says Ebel was a member of the 211 Crew, a white supremacist prison gang in Colorado.

Kramer said investigators are looking at who Ebel's associates were in prison and outside of prison.

At the memorial service at New Life Church, both Lisa Clements and Gov. John Hickenlooper spoke about Clements' strong belief in

redemption. His family said he decided as a teenager to work in corrections after visiting his uncle in prison, and he worked to reduce the use of solitary confinement in Colorado prisons. Standing with her two



Lisa Clements, the widow of Tom Clements got many supportive hugs after his memorial service for the chief executive of the Department of Corrections was held at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. on Monday, March 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jerilee Bennett)


daughters, Lisa Clements, a psychologist who oversees Colorado's state mental health institutes, said her husband of 28 years would want justice as well as forgiveness. "We want everyone who hears Tom's story to know that he lived his life believing in redemp-

tion, in the ability of the human heart to be changed. He would want justice certainly but moreover he'd want forgiveness. Our family prays for the family of the man who took Tom's life and we will pray for forgiveness in our own hearts and our own peace," she said. Hickenlooper, who hired Clements about two years ago, told mourners that he was both pragmatic and principled.

"He had common sense and he had courage," Hickenlooper said.

Hickenlooper is a longtime friend of the suspect's father, attorney Jack Ebel, who testified two years ago before state lawmakers that solitary confinement was destroying his son's psyche.

Hickenlooper confirmed he mentioned the case to Clements as an example of why the prison system needed reform before the job was offered, but the governor said he did not mention Evan Ebel by name. There was no indication that Hickenlooper's relationship with Jack Ebel played a role in the shooting. Hickenlooper said he did not having any role in Evan Ebel's parole in January. □







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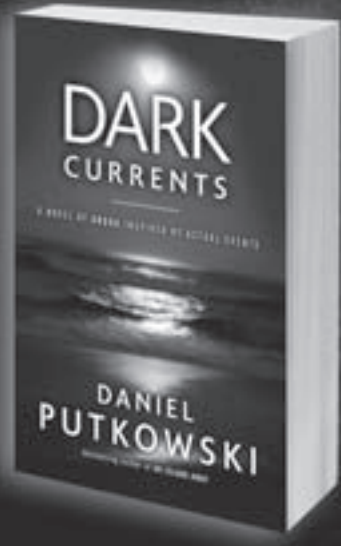
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Man dies swinging on Utah rock arch

PAUL FOY
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A 22-year-old man was killed trying to swing through the opening of a 110-foot(33-meter)-tall sandstone arch in a stunt made so popular on YouTube that state authorities recently banned the daredevil activity by commercial outfitters.

Kyle Lee Stocking left too much slack in the rope he was using, and it sent him crashing into the sandstone base of Corona Arch near Moab, Grand County sheriff's officials said. He died Sunday afternoon. Viral videos have bolstered the activity, which involves swinging wildly from ropes through arch and canyon openings. One video titled "World's Largest Rope Swing" has racked up more than 17 million views on YouTube since it was posted in February. "Pendulum" swinging is a relatively new form of recreation in Utah's canyon lands, which see plenty of injuries and deaths from rock climbing and BASE jumping, which involves leaping from a fixed object with a parachute. On March 13, another man, Zachery Taylor, was killed rappelling at Tear Drop Arch in Utah's Monument Valley. It's part of the recreational

"craziness" sweeping the Moab area, where the annual Jeep Safari week got started Saturday, another potentially dangerous activity that involves rock crawling in modified vehicles, said John Weisheit, of Living Rivers, a local environmental group.

It wasn't immediately clear how Stocking or his friends miscalculated the distance for a wild swing through Corona Arch. Sheriff's Lt. Kim Neal said Stocking left too much rope loose when he clipped into his waist harness.

"A lot of people are do-



Photo shows a person swinging from the Corona Arch near Moab, Utah. A 22-year-old man was killed over the weekend trying to swing through the opening of the 110-foot, 33-meter-tall, sandstone arch in a stunt made so popular on YouTube that state authorities recently banned the daredevil activity by commercial outfitters.
(AP Photo/Brian Maffly)

"People aren't accepting nature for what it is. They have to put an element of excitement into it," said Weisheit, a longtime rafting guide. "People see it on YouTube and then say, 'That looks like fun.'"

ing it around here," said Sean Hazell at Moab outfitter Western Spirit Cycling, who was planning to make his own jump from the top of Corona Arch. "I'm definitely going to think twice about it now." □

Helmet video examined in deadly US skydiver crash

ZEPHYRHILLS, Florida (AP)

— Authorities on Monday were looking at footage from a helmet camera worn by an Icelandic skydiving instructor who died with a student in a jump at a U.S. camp.

Orvar Arnarson, 41, and student Andrimar Pordarson, 25, jumped separately, not in tandem, on Saturday after successfully completing two jumps earlier that day. The two Icelandic skydivers did not return from their third jump. Their bodies were discovered later that evening in the Florida woods.

Investigators will review the helmet footage to learn more about what happened, said Pasco County sheriff's spokeswoman Melanie Snow.

The cause of death was blunt force trauma, the

medical examiner's office said. Autopsy results were pending, but a preliminary investigation determined that the manner of death was accidental.

The men didn't deploy their main parachutes, which could mean that they lost altitude awareness and didn't know where they were during the jump, Skydive City co-owner T.K. Hayes told The Associated Press on Sunday. Both victims had backup automatic activation devices, but they didn't have time to fully inflate.

Out of just over 3 million jumps, 19 skydivers died last year across the U.S., according to the United States Parachute Association.

Experts said it is "very rare" for two jumpers to die in the same accident. □

New charges for man accused of impersonating airline pilot

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A French man accused of impersonating a pilot after sitting in an airliner cockpit at a U.S. airport now faces federal charges.

The U.S. District Attorney's office says 61-year-old Philippe Jeannard was charged Monday with criminal trespass.

He already faced state charges including trespass, forgery and false impersonation.

Authorities say Jeannard was wearing a shirt with an Air France logo and carry-

ing a counterfeit Air France ID card when he boarded a Florida-bound US Airways flight Wednesday at Philadelphia International Airport.

Jeannard was a ticketed passenger but allegedly sat in a cockpit jump seat behind the pilot, then became verbally abusive. The affidavit says Jeannard told crew members he was an Air France pilot.

Jeannard remains in custody. It's unclear whether he had an attorney on the federal charges. □



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Woman gets prison in 'total identity theft' case

ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kansas (AP) — A Texas teacher and an illegal immigrant living in Kansas have fought for a dozen years to claim the identity of Candida L. Gutierrez in a case that has put a face on the growing crime of "total identity theft" in the United States.

On Monday, the real Candida L. Gutierrez saw her identity thief, Benita Cardona-Gonzalez, for the first time. Their encounter came inside a federal courtroom where Cardona-Gonzalez, a Mexican national, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for possessing fraudulent identification documents.

The plea deal Cardona-Gonzalez struck with prosecutors gave her less prison time but guaranteed she would not contest her deportation. She pleaded

guilty to an aggravated felony, which typically results in automatic deportation. When Gutierrez's identity was stolen, the thief didn't stop at opening fraudulent credit and bank accounts. Cardona-Gonzalez assumed Gutierrez's persona completely, using it to get a job, a driver's license, a mortgage and medical care for her children. She put the stolen name on the birth certificates of her two U.S.-born children in the spots where they list who's the mother.

"I wanted to make sure I could see her face and she could see my face — so that she knew the face of the person who paid for living her dream," Gutierrez said. "Because her dream was my nightmare."

Cardona-Gonzalez briefly glanced at Gutierrez while giving a hurried courtroom statement in Spanish.

"I accept my punishment and I accept my responsibility and I ask forgiveness

they were identity theft victims and sought to get new Social Security numbers.



Texas school teacher Candida Gutierrez is seen in Houston. Benita Cardona-Gonzalez, an illegal immigrant accused of assuming Gutierrez's identity, was sentenced to 18 months in prison Monday, March 25, 2013 in Wichita Kan. For 12 years, Cardona-Gonzalez used Gutierrez's identity to get a job, credit, a mortgage, food stamps and medical care.

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

of Ms. Gutierrez," she said. Both women had claimed

The Social Security Administration turned down Gutierrez's request and instead

issued a new number to the woman impersonating her.

And Gutierrez was forced to file her federal income tax forms using a special identification number usually reserved for illegal immigrants.

Gutierrez first learned her identity had been hijacked when she was turned down for a mortgage. Each year, she goes to the Social Security Administration with her birth certificate, driver's license, passport and even school yearbooks to prove her identity and clear her employment record.

She spends hours on the phone with creditors and credit bureaus, fills out affidavits and has yet to clean up her credit history. Her tax records are a mess. She even once phoned the impostor's employer in a futile effort to find some relief. □

Somali terror-support suspect pleads guilty in NYC

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A shadowy Somali citizen who was interrogated about his ties to international terrorism aboard an American U.S. warship nearly two years ago has pleaded guilty as part of a cooperation agreement, prosecutors said Monday.

Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame had been charged with providing material support to terrorist organizations, and conspiring to teach and demonstrate the making of explosives and other charges. He entered the plea in December 2011 in a sealed proceeding in federal court in Manhattan.

Prosecutors didn't explain why they kept Warsame's plea secret until now. They called his case a breakthrough in how it uncovered new clues about al-Qaida in Yemen and its relationship with al-Shabab in Somalia, but provided few details.

"The capture of Ahmed Warsame and his lengthy interrogation for intelligence purposes, followed by his thorough questioning by law enforcement agents, was an intelligence watershed," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement. "The handling of Warsame represents a seamless orchestration by our military, intelligence and law enforcement agencies that significantly furthered our ability to find, fight and apprehend those who wish to do us harm."

Warsame, who is listed as in his mid-20s, could face a potential life term, but no sentencing date was set. His last appearance in open court was in September 2011, when he pleaded not guilty. The plea cooperation agreement calls for Warsame to tell the FBI everything he knows about terror threats and, if necessary, testify for the government before grand juries and at trials. He and his family would get federal protection if his cooperation puts them in danger, the agreement says. A defense attorney for Warsame declined to comment Monday. The U.S. military captured Warsame in the Gulf of Aden between Somalia and Yemen on April 19, 2011. Law enforcement agents questioned him for more than two months until

he was advised of his right to remain silent. He waived those rights and spoke to law enforcement agents for several days before being sent to New York in July 2011, prosecutors said. Warsame was not believed to be a senior member of either terrorist organization, but court documents say he fought with and helped train al-Shabab in 2009, then played a similar role with al-Qaida in Yemen until 2011. That made him a potentially valuable intelligence asset, since he had unique access in both groups, authorities said. □

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Syrian opposition rebels advance as infighting flares

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A dual picture of Syria's rebellion is emerging: Fighters on the ground make advances, seizing territory in the south and even firing one of the heaviest mortar volleys yet into the heart of Damascus on Monday. But at the same time, the would-be opposition leadership is falling deeper into disarray. The dichotomy underlines the difficulties as the U.S. and its allies try to shape the course of the fight to oust President Bashar Assad — and, more importantly, avert chaos in the event the regime is toppled. As the Syrian civil war enters its third year, hopes that the perpetually fragmented opposition would coalesce to form a real leadership for the fighters on the ground seem more elusive than ever.



Syrian rebels walk past of dead Syrian soldiers loyal to Syrian president Bashar Assad, at an air base that was captured by the rebels, in Idlib province, northern Syria. Syrian rebels are killing captured regime fighters and suspected informers with impunity, human rights groups say, pointing to mounting war crimes committed by those trying to topple President Bashar Assad.

(AP Photo/ENN)

Instead, divisions broke out this week in the main opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition. Its head announced he was stepping down, complaining

of restrictions on his work. Amid infighting, 10 other members said they were suspending their membership.

The resignation by Mouaz al-Khatib, a respected Muslim preacher seen as a unifying figure and a moderate against the rising influence of Islamic extremists among Syria's rebels, came only days after the SNC narrowly elected a little-known information technology professional from Texas to head a planned interim government as its prime minister. In another blow, the head of the SNC's military branch, Gen. Salim Idris, said his group refused to recognize the new prime minister, Ghassan Hitto, because he lacked broad support among the opposition. Hitto was backed by the Muslim Brotherhood

and the Gulf nation of Qatar; many prominent opposition figures boycotted the vote that installed him.

Amid the disarray, the Coalition, largely comprised of exiles, has made little mark among the hundreds of independent rebel brigades that are doing the fighting against Assad's forces. Most rebel groups still cobble together their own funding and arms and give little more than lip-service to the authority of Idris' Office of the Chiefs of Staff. Still, rebels have recently been running up successes on the ground. Fighters have been steadily gaining more ground near Syria's southern border with Jordan and Israel. In the north, they have been expanding the territory they hold, recently capturing the city of Raqqqa, a series of military bases and the country's largest dam. Rebels have also seized footholds on the edge of the heavily guarded capital and, while they have been unable to break into the city, they have used their positions for mortar barrages, trying to shake the government's grip.

On Monday, they fired off a volley of mortar shells that crashed near a landmark downtown traffic circle in the capital, killing two people and wounding several others, state TV said. It was some of the worst shelling in the heart of the city since the rebellion against Assad began in March 2011. Such sporadic strikes on Damascus have grown more common in recent weeks and often appear to target government buildings. □

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Trouble from Cyprus deal could linger for eurozone

DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — European leaders may have saved Cyprus from imminent financial collapse when they clinched

bly pushed the country out of the euro.

As well as signing off on a 10 billion euros (\$12.94 billion) rescue loan, the deal includes a far-reaching restructuring of the country's

on Mar. 16 was overwhelmingly rejected by Cyprus' parliament. The country's banks then closed to prevent depositors from withdrawing all their money. Here's a look at some of

undermined Europe's deposit insurance guarantees. Deposit accounts with less than 100,000 euros are protected by a European guarantee scheme if a bank collapses. But that didn't stop eurozone officials from proposing to take 6.75 percent of deposits from people with less than the insured limit.

The move was rejected but the mere mention raises the chance small depositors in other indebted countries will lose trust and flee in some future crisis, putting pressure on banks. Economist Reinhard Cluse at UBS says eurozone leaders may have to come out soon with a strong statement stressing that the €100,000 limit will be secure in the future. "They will hope that this sends a strong signal to depositors in other troubled eurozone countries (above all Greece, Spain) where depositors might react a lot more nervously in the future," Cluse wrote in a note to investors.

— NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE: The dispute over how to rescue Cyprus underlines

the eurozone's deep political fault line between the donor countries in northern Europe such as Germany, the Netherlands and Finland and the zone's indebted countries in southern Europe. The immovable limit on what donor countries would agree to loan, and the tough conditions for it, also underscore the hard line that Germany, the bloc's largest country and chief backer of any rescue, is taking. The debtor countries are often regarded in the German press and public discussion as seeking handouts to cover irresponsible behavior. The south returns the favor by grumbling over German domination. Enforced conditions include raising business taxes and shrinking the banking system that made Cyprus a prosperous offshore financial center. "The German government played hardball, based on the assumption that the consequences of a Cypriot 'no' would be much graver for Cyprus than for the rest of the eurozone," wrote analyst Carsten Brzeski at ING. □



From left, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde, left, Dutch Finance Minister and chief of the eurogroup Jeroen Dijsselbloem and EU Commissioner for Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn participate in a media conference after an emergency eurogroup meeting in Brussels on Monday, March 25, 2013. After failing for a week to find a solution at home to a crisis that could force it into bankruptcy, Cypriot politicians were turning to the European Union on Sunday in a last-ditch effort to help the island nation forge a viable plan to secure an international bailout. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

a last-minute deal in the early hours of Monday morning.

The way they did it, however, has left political and psychological scars across Europe that are far out of proportion to the island nation's tiny size — and that could hinder the eurozone's efforts to solve its debt crisis.

The deal was agreed with euro finance ministers along with the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank, hours ahead of a crucial deadline. The ECB was threatening to cut off crucial emergency assistance to Cyprus's struggling banks Monday if no agreement was reached. The resulting collapse would have dragged Cyprus's economy down and possi-

two largest banks, which were insolvent.

The rescue puts the costs of the country's broken banks where many analysts, finance officials and Europe's political leaders say they really belong: on the two big Cypriot banks' creditors, shareholders and big wealthy depositors — not on taxpayers and small savers. The country also agreed to restructure and downsize its banking system, which had ballooned to seven times the size of the economy, so it would not threaten the country's economy again. The eurozone average is about 3 ½ times the size of the economy.

Before Monday morning's agreement came 10 days of tortuous debate and delays. The initial deal agreed

the problems raised by the latest eurozone rescue:

— SAFEGUARDING SAV-ERS: The Cyprus rescue

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Knox expects Italy court decision on retrial today

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's highest court delayed until Tuesday a decision on whether American student Amanda Knox will face a new trial in the murder of her British roommate — an unusual but not unprecedented move. The court heard six hours of arguments Monday and spent several hours deliberating that and a handful of other cases before announcing it would issue a decision at 10 a.m. (0900 GMT) Tuesday on whether the 2011 acquittals of Knox and her Italian ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito will stand. Italian prosecutors have asked the high court to throw out the acquittals of Knox and Sollecito in the murder of 21-year-old British student Meredith Kercher and order a new trial. The high court normally is-

sues the decisions the same day it hears arguments. But prosecutor general Luigi Riello told reporters that "in very complex cases, it happens" that the court takes another day.

Lawyers for Sollecito declined to speculate on what the delay could mean for the decision. Sollecito's father was calm about the development.

"We have waited so many years, one night is not going to make a difference," Francesco Sollecito said outside the courthouse. He said he hadn't spoken to his son, who did not attend the hearing, about the day's proceedings.

Knox, meanwhile, was waiting anxiously in Seattle to hear if her long legal battle is over. "She's carefully paying attention to what will come out," attorney Luciano Ghirga said as he arrived at Italy's Court

of Cassation in Rome. "This is a fundamental stage. The trial is very complex." Knox, now 25, and Raffaele Sollecito, who turns 29 on

shared with the American and others in the university town of Perugia, where they were exchange students. Her throat had been

their innocence, although they said that smoking marijuana the night Kercher was killed had clouded their recollections.

Knox and Sollecito were convicted and given long prison sentences: 26 years for Knox, 25 for Sollecito. But an appeals court acquitted them in 2011, criticizing virtually the entire case mounted by prosecutors. The appellate court noted that the murder weapon was never found, said that DNA tests were faulty and added that Knox and Sollecito had no motive to kill Kercher. After nearly four years behind bars in Italy, Knox returned to her hometown of Seattle and Sollecito resumed his computer science studies. Knox is now a student at the University of Washington, according to her family spokesman, Dave Marriott. □



Giulia Bongiorno, lawyer of Amanda Knox's ex-boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, talks to reporters in front of the Italy's Court of Cassation, in Rome, Monday, March 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

Tuesday, were arrested in 2007, shortly after Kercher's body was found in a pool of blood in her bedroom in the rented apartment she

slashed. Prosecutors alleged that Kercher was the victim of a drug-fueled sexual assault. Knox and Sollecito have both maintained

Russian authorities raid Amnesty International office

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

ANDREW ROTH

© 2013 New York Times

MOSCOW — Russian authorities Monday raided

the local headquarters of the human rights group Amnesty International, the latest in a continuing series of office searches aimed

at putting pressure on non-governmental groups.

The head of Amnesty International's office in Russia, Sergei Nikitin, said in a

telephone interview that officials from the general prosecutor's offices and from the tax police arrived Monday morning unannounced to conduct what they described as an "audit" and demanded a list of documents, most of which Nikitin said were already on file with the government.

"They're sitting and waiting for me to bring the originals and copies," Nikitin said. "This is ongoing because we of course were not expecting them today." He added, "They don't have any concrete complaints. They say it's a regular check and other cliché phrases."

Last week, the authorities conducted a similar raid at the offices of Memorial, an international historical society and human rights group that has operated in Russia and other post-Soviet states for more than two decades.

Pavel Chikov, a member of Russia's presidential human rights council, said that dozens of nonprofit organizations had been searched in regions across Russia in March, including

at least 20 organizations on Monday.

"We can definitely say it's been the most active day for these searches so far," he said in a telephone interview. The Kremlin has taken a series of steps in recent months aimed at clamping down on nonprofit organizations, particularly those that receive financing and other support from abroad, and the Russian Parliament has adopted a battery of legislation including various new restrictions and requirements. Depending on how they are financed, certain groups, for instance, are now required to register as "foreign agents." And certain types of nonprofit groups working in the political realm are barred from employing foreigners in leadership positions.

A representative for the Ministry of Justice told the Interfax news service on Monday that information from the raids would be used to check compliance with the new law on foreign agents. The ministry has not made any charges under the new law since its adoption last year. □

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Japan, EU agree to start free-trade negotiations

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan and the European Union agreed Monday to start negotiations for a free-trade pact encompassing nations that account for nearly a third of the world economy.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso spoke by telephone for 30 minutes late Monday, a Japanese government spokesman said. A Japan-EU summit set to begin Monday in Tokyo was shelved because of the financial crisis in Cyprus.

The leaders agreed to launch the negotiations toward a "deep and comprehensive" free-trade deal, with the first meeting set for next month, both sides said in a joint statement. The place for that meeting is not yet decided, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told reporters.

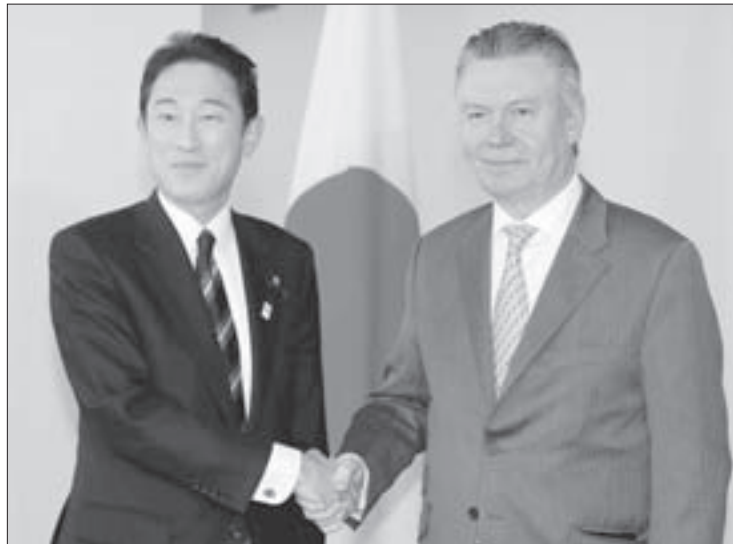
As global momentum builds for regional trade pacts, Japan has been eager to get started on talks with Europe. Earlier this month, Abe announced Tokyo

will join talks on a Pacific trade pact, the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership. The U.S and EU announced free-trade talks earlier this year aimed at creating the world's largest free-trade zone.

In the phone conversa-

tion, the three leaders ex-

changed views on Cyprus and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing economic growth and ensuring financial stability. Cyprus secured an agreement early Monday that paves the way for a 10 billion euro (\$13 billion) bailout.



European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, right, and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida pose for photographers prior to their meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Monday, March 25, 2013. De Gucht is in Tokyo and meeting with Japanese government and business officials as scheduled.
(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

He was delighted the agreement was reached but acknowledged it was hard to predict how long the negotiations might take, adding that autos was one "sensitive" sector for the EU.

"We will do our utmost to

come to a critical mass of understanding within one year," he said.

Although resistance to lower tariffs is high in some Japanese industries, such as long-protected rice farmers, manufacturers and others are concerned about being left behind by the trade agreements that other countries are negotiating.

Among the likely beneficiaries of free trade are Japan's giant manufacturing exporters such as Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest automaker.

Japanese consumers may also have much to gain with access to cheaper imports, including new kinds

of services. And boosts in spending may help breathe life into the Japanese economy, the world's third largest.

"It would be not only great for the manufacturers seeking exports. It should also lead to a more efficient domestic economy because of increased competition. And it's the Japanese consumer who will benefit," said Azusa Kato, economist at BNP Paribas.

The push to start talks on joining free-trade deals is part of the Japanese prime minister's "Abenomics" strategy that includes super-easy money and generous public works spending. □

Venezuelan leader warns of sabotage

CARACAS, Venezuela
(AP) —

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro claims government opponents are planning to sabotage the country's power grid and interrupt food distribution ahead of the April 14 presidential election.

Maduro's comments come amid growing concerns about sporadic shortages

of some basic foods and occasional power outages in several regions of Venezuela. Government foes have rejected similar allegations about planned sabotage in the past.

Opposition politicians argue that the government is to blame for shortages because it has not allotted sufficient U.S. dollars to busi-

nesses that import food. They also say the government is responsible for the blackouts because it has not made investments required to maintain the power grid.

Maduro made the allegations during a televised speech on Monday. He did not provide details of the alleged plans. □

SPECIAL

First Course

CAJUN BEEF SALAD
tossed with olives, onions, paprika and chili sauce

SEAFOOD COCKTAIL
with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce

ESCARGOT A LA CREME
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms

GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE
dressed with your choice of dressing

Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
home made

Third Course

STEAK DIANE
with sauteed mushrooms tomatoes and herbs

PICCATA MILANAISE
served on a bed of pasta with parmesan

CHICKEN FLORENTINE
baked stuffed with creamed spinach

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Haiti slums getting splashy makeover

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— One of Haiti's biggest shantytowns, a vast expanse of grim cinderblock homes on a mountainside in the nation's capital, is getting a psychedelic makeover that aims to be part art and part homage. Workers this month began painting the concrete facades of buildings in Jalousie slum a rainbow of purple, peach, lime and cream, inspired by the dazzling "cities-in-the-skies" of well-known Haitian painter Prefete Duffaut, who died last year.

The \$1.4 million effort titled "Beauty versus Poverty: Jalousie in Colors" is part of a government project to relocate people from the displacement camps that sprouted up after Haiti's 2010 earthquake. The relocation has targeted a handful of high-profile camps in Port-au-Prince by paying a year's worth of rent subsidies for residents to move into neighborhoods like Jalousie. The government is now trying to spruce up these poor neighborhoods and introduce city services.

"We're not trying to do Coconut Grove. We're not trying to do South Beach," said Clement Belizaire, director of the government's housing relocation program, referring to Miami neighborhoods. "The goal that we are shooting for is a neighborhood that is modest but decent, where residents are proud to be from that area."

While most residents welcome the attempt to beautify Jalousie, a slum of 45,000 inhabitants, critics say the project is the latest example of cosmetic changes carried out by a government that has done little to improve people's lives in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

"This is just to make it look like they're doing something for the people but in reality they are not," said Sen. Moise Jean-Charles, an outspoken critic of President Michel Martelly, argu-

ing that the money could have been better spent. Amid its narrow corridors and steep steps, Jalousie has no traditional sewage system or electric grid. The slum is lit at night by candles and a web of wires that tap illegally into the public power system, dangling above the concrete homes. Water is provided by an outdoor spigot where people line up with

smoking a cigarette — whatever — and you have all of Port-au-Prince at your feet, and you're living in colors," Belizaire said, sitting in his office.

Jalousie, perched above rich Petionville, has become a flashpoint for class controversy in Haiti recently. It is among many slums that have sprawled across the hills of Port-au-Prince in recent decades because

The demolition never happened.

These days, most people in Jalousie chalk the protests up to a "misunderstanding," and talk about the project with pride.

"It's beautiful. Jalousie is not the same anymore," Resilia Pierre, a 53-year-old wife and mother, said as she waited at a well to buy water. "We don't have the means to do it ourselves.



A woman carries empty buckets in Jalousie, a cinder block shantytown recently painted in colors in Petionville, Haiti. A \$1.4 million effort titled "Beauty versus Poverty: Jalousie in Colors" is part of a government project to relocate people from the displacement camps that sprouted up after Haiti's 2010 earthquake.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

buckets.

Some people wonder why Jalousie was chosen for the makeover, though officials say they plan to expand the project to other Port-au-Prince shantytowns.

Jalousie is unique in that its mountainside presence makes it visible to people living in the wealthy district of Petionville. Critics have suggested that the choice of Jalousie is as much about giving the posh hotels of Petionville a pretty view as helping the slum's residents.

Belizaire said he welcomes controversy, adding that the project's visibility is important. It's a concrete accomplishment for the government and he contends that it does indeed help Jalousie residents.

"People are sitting on the balcony, having a beer,

governments past and present have failed to provide affordable housing and basic services. Many of the homes crash down the hills every year during the country's rainy seasons. Haiti's class divisions spilled into the streets last year when more than 1,000 people from Jalousie protested in central Port-au-Prince. They threw rocks at a luxury hotel and criticized rich Haitians, threatening to burn down Petionville if the government followed through with a plan to demolish their homes. Officials had wanted to tear down the homes next to a ravine to build a flood-protection project. During heavy rainfall, rocks from the ravine clog the entrance to a private school for the children of diplomats and wealthy Haitians.

I would like to say 'thank you' to the people who did that."

The government's goal it to eventually paint 1,000 homes and other buildings. Workers hired by three companies began two weeks ago by putting concrete finishes on the ash-colored facades of the slum's cinderblock houses. Then they paint over the finish with bright colors using rollers, standing atop wobbly ladders next to buckets of paint. The entire effort is supposed to take six months.

Duffaut, one of Haiti's most famous painters, was born in the country's south in 1923. He studied at the Centre D'Art in the late 1940s and his work, appearing in museums worldwide, has long been a source of national pride. □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Barbados agrees to test OAS drug treatment court

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — Barbados has signed a pact with a regional group agreeing to launch a pilot drug treatment court that would use alternative sentencing to treat addicted offenders. The Organization of American States says Barbados signed the agreement Monday. In coming months, the pilot program will try to evaluate supervised treatment alternatives to prison time for some offenders with drug addictions. The alternatives involve treatment and rehabilitation programs that are supervised by a judge, who has the power to reward progress and punish relapses. The OAS has been trying to help member nations find better ways to rehabilitate drug-addicted offenders while relieving pressure on their backlogged court and jail systems.

Haiti official slain in drive-by killing

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — An aide to Haiti's prime minister has been slain in a drive-by shooting by two masked men on a motorcycle, the government said Monday. The office of Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe said in a statement that Georges Henry Honorat was killed Saturday evening at his house in the Delmas district in Port-au-Prince. He was 55. Police spokesman Gary Desrosiers said Honorat was shot twice outside his home when the men drove by. He died at the scene. Detectives opened an investigation and collected bullet casings but have not publicly mentioned a motive. Honorat also currently worked as the editor in chief for the weekly newspaper Haiti Progres and was secretary general of the Popular National Party that opposed the regime of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier and his father Francois. □



In the intimate garden of Papiamento Restaurant:

Most animated cocktail reception welcomes 2013 Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant golf event

PALM BEACH - The ninth annual Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament saw a great opening reception in the lovely private garden of the exquisite restaurant in Washington.

It seemed like all the participants and event sponsors had come out in force, clearly enjoying the company of their fellow golfers, the free-flowing Wente Vineyards wines and the tasty buffet.

The players got the chance to greet fourth-generation Eric Wente: he is here once again for the popular tournament.

Eric Wente participated in his favorite 18-hole event on Aruba as usual; this year he is teamed up with Adrian Slotboom, Operational Director of Tierra del Sol.

Local representative of Wente Vineyards, Arion Wine Company, has organized the entire event, which has as benefitting charity of the year 2013 Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds Aruba (KWFA), the foundation which supports cancer victims in many ways. KWF is cover-



ing many areas, one of which has been chosen: the foundation will receive a substantial sum for the transportation of patients to and from the hospital, oncologists and physiotherapists.

The opening reception at Papiamento Restaurant heralded a fun tournament, with a bottle of Wente Vineyards wine and a bagged delicious lunch by Papiamento Restaurant gracing each golf cart. Participants



won.

Valued sponsors of the 2013 edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament included American Airlines, Aruba Airport Authority, Aruba Bank, Riedel The Wine Glass Company, Crystal Casino, Fatum, Nagico Aruba NV, Plus Accountants, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar, Toyota Prius, Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland in Aruba, Oduber & Kan, Albo Aruba NV, Aruba Sotheby's International Realty, Complete Logistics, Total Cleaning, Elmar, Floramarket, Home and Nature, and Engysol!



also received a wonderful cap at registration; this cap was needed to keep their heads cool during the 2-player scramble tournament. Golfers were not only challenged to win Closest to the Pin at holes 3, 7, 13 and 17 during the one-day event, but also to win the 1st prize. An amazing round trip to California, including a two night stay at the guest cottage; and a round of golf at the Wente Vineyards Golf Course in Livermore Valley can be

Photos show several happy golfers during the opening cocktail party of the 9th annual Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament and a happy Eric Wente in the company of Arion Wine Company's Govert van der Hout during his welcome speech. Once again, the cocktail reception at Papiamento Restaurant was a blast – it is the starting signal for a wonderful Saturday filled with golf, sunshine and wine, lots of wine! ☐

It's that time of the year again:

AAA expects airport to be hopping for Easter season!

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is aware that we are approaching a very busy holiday season for the airport: Easter Week 2013.

Since from last week Friday, March 22, through Sunday March 31, 2013 Aruba airport is expecting several charter flights from mostly Caracas and Maracaibo, Venezuela, where Aserca Airlines will provide most (14) of these charter and/or extra flights.

Other Airlines that have charter or extra flights are: Tiara, Avior,

Laser, Estelar, Venezolana and Avianca. In total we have approximately 30 charters or extra flights during this period. For this the airport will remain open 24 hours on certain days to handle the approved charter flights that are scheduled to operate after midnight and before 7:00am.

It is expected that during this period we will also have an increase in the amount of private flights. However,



er, we cannot predict if there will be an increase compared to last year because the owners usually do not plan ahead. But, due to the expected high traffic the airport opened the Valero road (currently part of construction area on the south side) and an extra buffer area for parking at the General Aviation apron.

This extra space will be very valuable during the busy period ahead.

AAA expects the most

challenging days of operation to be Saturday March 30, 2013 and Sunday March 31, 2013 when most passengers will be returning home.

The airport will coop with the amount of traffic by a close coordination with all instances involved at the airport to be prepared and to have enough manpower available.

AAA wishes to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and safe Easter Period. □

ATA and Paradise Beach Villas honor Goodwill Ambassadors!

EAGLE BEACH - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a huge group of very loyal and friendly Goodwill Ambassadors.

The honored are:

John Evanelista and Joann Vasta of Flushing, New York; Muriel Magrane of Farmington, New York; and



Mary Jackson of East Kingston, New Hampshire.

The honorees are members of Paradise Beach Villas and have been enjoying the Island every year.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-20 years consecutive.

The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food. The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Freddy Albertus Mgr. Directeur and Milca Erasmus Human Resources Mgr. at Paradise Beach Villas. □

Beauty On The Beach

Daniela Runcio

She came all the way from Milan, Italy to enjoy her honeymoon in Aruba.

She is staying at the Radisson Aruba Beach Resort, her favorite beaches in Aruba are the Arashi Beach and the Baby Beach



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Aruba says "Masha Danki" to Joseph and Mimi Szekeress!



DRUIF BEACH - Recently, Joseph and Mimi Szekeress of Schofield, Wisconsin were honored as a Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years

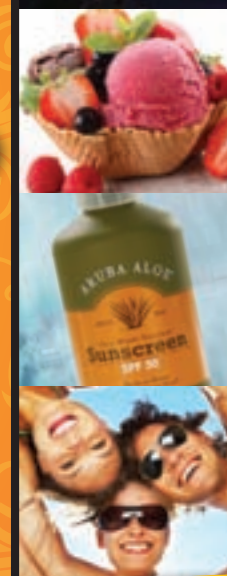
consecutive. The honorees are regular guests at the Divi Tamarijn Beach Resort and have been enjoying the Island each year they visit. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Maria v/d Lee, Kimberly Arends, Bradley Vesprey and Iris Veen con-

ducted the ceremony at the Divi Tamarijn Beach Resort. The top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. □



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- Daher & Co
- Diamonds International
- Intermezzo ~ The Salon
- R-Glass
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Serena Williams, serves to Dominika Cibulkova, of Slovakia, during the Sony Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 25, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

Serena Williams rallies for 3-set win at Sony Open

KEY BISCAZYNE, Florida (AP)

— Serena Williams' match was more than an hour old Monday before she began providing a soundtrack for her comeback.

"Come on!" she shouted at her fist through gritted teeth. Her demeanor transformed, Williams rallied past Dominika Cibulkova in the fourth round of the Sony Open 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

The top-ranked Williams, seeking her sixth Key Biscayne title and first since 2008, was down a service break trailing 4-1 in the second set before she swept the final five games of the set. She also won the last three games of the match and served it out at love with three aces.

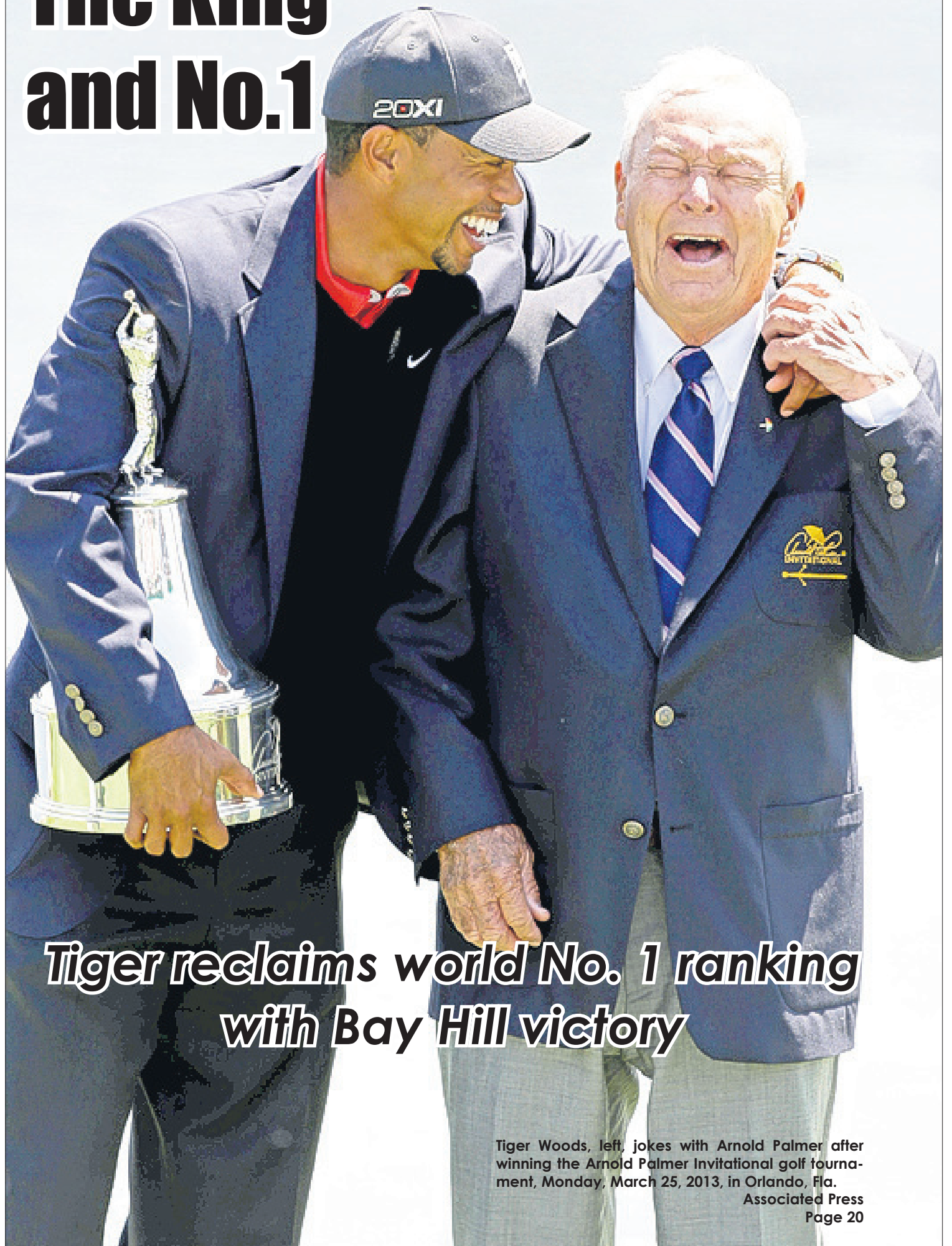
"I just felt slow and sluggish," she said. "Then I started hitting errors, and I was getting frustrated. Then I tried not to be frustrated."

"I was just proud of myself because I didn't throw any rackets."

Williams' opponent in the quarterfinals Tuesday will be No. 5-seeded Li Na, who beat wild card Garbine Muguruza 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Continued on Page 19

The King and No.1



Tiger reclaims world No. 1 ranking with Bay Hill victory

Tiger Woods, left, jokes with Arnold Palmer after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament, Monday, March 25, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press
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NHL Capsules

Penguins beat Flyers in OT, extend streak to 12

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — PITTSBURGH (AP) — Tyler Kennedy scored 2:33 into overtime as the Pittsburgh Penguins extended their winning streak to 12 games with a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday night. Sidney Crosby leveled things late in regulation and Kennedy won it with his fifth goal of the season, a wrist shot from the left circle. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 27 shots for Pittsburgh, which remained unbeaten in March. Claude Giroux scored his 10th goal of the season late in the second period for Philadelphia, but the Flyers couldn't make it hold up on a night they played without forward Danny Briere and defenseman Nicklas Grossman. Ilya Bryzgalov made 33 saves but let two slip by late.

CAPITALS 3, RANGERS 2, SO NEW YORK (AP) — Nicklas Backstrom and Alex Ovechkin scored in the shootout and regulation



Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury (29) blocks a shot as Philadelphia Flyers center Brayden Schenn (10) crashes the net looking for a rebound during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Sunday, March 24, 2013. The Penguins won in overtime, 2-1, to extend their winning streak to 12 games.

Associated Press

as Washington won its third consecutive game.

Braden Holtby made 30 saves in regulation and overtime and stopped three of four Rangers in the

shootout for the Capitals. Arron Asham and Derek Stepan had New York's goals in regulation and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 22 shots.

Ovechkin scored in the second round of the shootout, only to see Derek Stepan tally for New York to knot it at 1-1 after three rounds. After Holtby denied Brad

Richards, Backstrom beat Lundqvist to decide the contest in the fourth round. **RED WINGS 2, DUCKS 1 ANAHEIM, California (AP)** — Jimmy Howard made 33 saves, Dan Cleary and Drew Miller scored first-period goals as Detroit beat Anaheim on the road for the second time in three days. The Ducks, who trail idle Chicago by three points for the NHL's best record, have dropped consecutive games in regulation for the first time this season following a 22-3-4 start that was the best in franchise history. They also had back-to-back shootout losses on the road against the Phoenix Coyotes earlier this month. Anaheim captain Ryan Getzlaf scored on a power play with 46 seconds left in the second period, ending his 13-game goal drought against Detroit. Jonas Hiller stopped 21 shots after going 8-0-2 with a 1.86 goals-against average and .933 save percentage in his previous 10 starts. □

Carl Lewis lends support to Tokyo 2020 bid



U.S. Olympian Carl Lewis speaks to reporters while visiting Tokyo National Stadium, where he won the 100-meter final and set a world record at the 3rd World Track and Field Championships in 1991 in Tokyo, Monday, March 25, 2013.

Associated Press

JACK GALLAGHER

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Olympic great Carl Lewis offered his support for Tokyo's bid to host the 2020 Games on Monday after revisiting the venue of what he calls the "race of my life." The nine-time Olympic gold medalist came to Japan hoping to inspire young athletes from the northeastern part of the country that was devastated by an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

Lewis visited Sendai and Ishinomaki with Willie Banks, the former triple jump world record-holder, and Mike Powell, who set the long

jump world record at the world championships in Tokyo in 1991. Tokyo, which hosted the 1964 Olympics, is bidding against Madrid and Istanbul for the right to host the 2020 Games. Tokyo also bid for the 2016 Olympics, which were awarded to Rio de Janeiro. "I wish them the best of luck because I think they will put on a tremendous games," Lewis said. "I will be at the 2020 Games wherever it is, and I hope it's here." Lewis said Japan's reputation for innovation would help the bid.

"I'm all for progress," he said. "I believe in high-

technology. I believe in state-of-the art new stadiums for people. It makes it more comfortable, and leads to improved performances by the athletes. "Japan has always been a very high-tech community and I think it will be a showcase for a stadium probably more high-tech than any stadium that's ever been made. I think it will be a great place to be." Lewis has an affinity for Tokyo, where he said he ran "the best race of my life" in reclaiming the 100-meter world record in 9.86 seconds at the 1991 world championships. □

Sony Open

Continued from Page 17

American Sloane Stephens started strong, but lost the last nine games and was eliminated by defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska 4-6, 6-2, 6-0. That spoiled the possibility of a rematch in the semifinals between Williams and Stephens, who pulled off an upset when they met at the Australian Open in January. Since beating Williams, the No. 16-ranked Stephens is 2-5. "There's no specific thing that I'd say has happened or is not happening, but I don't think it really matters," she said. "I'm 16 in the world. I can lose in the first round the next two months and I probably would still be top 30. I'm not really too concerned about winning or losing or any of that, I don't think. My life has changed, yeah, but I wouldn't say I'm in a

panic or anything." In men's third-round play, 2009 champion Andy Murray beat Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (3), 6-3. No. 6-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated Jarkko Nieminen 6-3, 6-3, and American Sam Querrey advanced when No. 14-seeded Milos Ranic withdrew because of illness. Williams was impassive and flat on her feet in the early going against the No. 13-seeded Cibulkova, and the half-empty stands made for a sleepy atmosphere. "Bor-ing!" one spectator shouted. Williams said she has learned not to force showing emotion. "It just kind of has to come," she said. "You can't be yelling, 'Come on!' after 40 unforced errors and you miss another shot. That's not going to necessarily

work." During changeovers, disco, salsa and Coldplay blared from the public address system, and something finally got Williams going. Her shots began landing consistently just inside the lines, and she won 10 consecutive points to surge ahead in the second set. She let out a yell for the first time when she hit a backhand winner to reach set point, screaming encouragement at herself. The crowd responded with a roar of approval. Williams won the next point with an ace, and when a replay confirmed the call to seal the set, she hollered again and spiked a spare ball. Her father and coach, Richard, stroked his chin as he watched the comeback from the photographers' pit. "I saw my dad on the sideline, and he was so calm and so relaxed," she said. "And I was just like, 'OK, Serena, you can do this.' I took that energy and start-



Andy Murray, of Britain, stretches for a return to Grigor Dimitrov, of Bulgaria, during the Sony Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 25, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

ed playing better." Williams went ahead to stay by breaking serve at love for a 2-1 lead in the final set. After closing out the victory with a 116-mph ace, she swung her fist in satisfaction. She acknowledged her demeanor may have

seemed odd earlier. "I look crazy because I'm constantly having an argument with myself," she said. "We're going back and forth and trying to figure things out. I'm talking to myself inside, and she's talking back and giving me lip."

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Tiger back on top in golf, wins Bay Hill

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

The moment was vintage Tiger Woods, and so was his reaction.

Seconds after Rickie Fowler made a 40-foot birdie putt on the 12th hole to pull within two shots of the lead, Woods posed over his 25-foot birdie putt until he swept the putter upward in his left hand and marched toward the cup as it dropped for a birdie.

Fowler, standing on the edge of the green, turned with a slight smile as if to say, "What else can I do?"

Woods won the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Monday and returned to No. 1 in the world for the first time since October 2010, the longest spell of his career. After all that time, after so much turmoil with his personal life and his health, Woods looks as good as ever.

Maybe better.

"It's a byproduct of hard work, patience and getting back to winning golf tournaments," Woods said.

He essentially wrapped up his eighth title at Bay Hill with an 8-iron out of a fair-



Tiger Woods holds the championship trophy after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Monday, March 25, 2013. Woods won with a score of 13-under-par.

Associated Press

way bunker on the par-5 16th that easily cleared the water and landed safely on the green for a two-putt birdie. Woods dangled his tongue out of his mouth as the ball was in the air, another sign of his swagger. Just like his other two wins this year, Woods never let anyone get closer than two shots in the final round.

With a conservative bogey he could afford on the final hole, he closed with a 2-under 70 for a two-shot win over Justin Rose.

Woods walked off the 18th green waving his putter over his head — truly a magic wand at Bay Hill — to acknowledge the fans who have seen this act before.

His eighth win in the Arnold Palmer Invitational tied a PGA Tour record that had not been touched in 48 years.

This win had extra significance. He's back to No. 1. "If I get healthy, I know I can play this game at a high level," Woods said. "I know I can be where I'm contending in every event,

contending in major championships and being consistent day in and day out — if I got healthy. That was the first step in the process. Once I got there, then my game turned."

A year ago, he came to Bay Hill without having won in more than 2 1/2 years. He left this year having won six times in his last 20 starts on the PGA Tour.

Next up is the Masters, where Woods will try to end his five-year drought in the majors.

"I'm really excited about the rest of this year," Woods said.

Woods fell as low as No. 58 in the world as he coped with the collapse of his marriage, a loss of sponsors and injuries to his left leg. One week after he announced he was dating Olympic ski champion Lindsey Vonn, Woods returned to the top of golf.

"Number 1 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Vonn tweeted moments after his win.

Asked if there was any correlation to him winning right after going public with his relationship, Woods smiled and said, "You're reading way too much into this." □

Recari beats Kim on 2nd playoff hole at Kia

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

CARLSBAD, California (AP) —

Beatriz Recari had three-putted No. 18 in regulation and again on the first hole of a playoff with I.K. Kim as dusk approached Sunday. Here she was again, with a chance to win the Kia Classic.

This one was true enough that Recari began her victory celebration even before her 18-foot birdie putt from the fringe rolled into the cup.

The 25-year-old from Pamplona, Spain, raised her right fist and, after the ball rolled in, raised both arms in the air and smiled.

She later put her hands to her face and wiped away tears as her caddie boyfriend, Andreas Thorp, put his arm around her.

"There was a lot going on," Recari said. "I had a good

feeling, but the same as the other putts. The other ones went by and missed the hole. This one went in. I had the same process and the same shot. Nothing dif-



Beatriz Recari, of Spain, celebrates after winning the LPGA Kia Classic golf tournament at the Aviara Golf Club on Sunday, March 24, 2013 in Carlsbad, Calif.

Associated Press

ferent. I'm always trying to do my best. It just dropped in." It was her first LPGA Tour victory since her rookie season of 2010.

Recari said she was emotional because she was thinking of "all those people that have been there with me no matter what. ... And at the same time I just couldn't believe that the ball was in the hole and like it was over and that I won. It was a lot."

The tour is off next week before the first major of the year, the Kraft Nabisco Championship in Rancho Mirage. Recari and Kim three-putted No. 18 both in regulation and on the first playoff hole.

Recari, who had a two-stroke lead to start the day after three bogey-free rounds, had a chance to win in regulation. But, like Kim in the pair ahead of

her, she three-putted the par-4 18th — including a 6-footer that would have won it had she not rolled it past the hole. Recari closed with a 2-over 74 to match Kim at 9 under at Aviara. Kim shot a 71.

They teed off on 18 again and both players three-putted. With the sun setting and the temperature dropping, they played the hole again.

Kim had a 30-foot putt on the second playoff hole and rolled it left before Recari made the winner.

Recari wasn't sure if she and Kim were missing the putts on the big green because of shadows cast by the grandstands or because it was lumpy after a full day of golf.

Recari, who hit a 3-wood off the tee all three times on 18, said she was more aggressive on the second

playoff hole, when she hit a 6-iron on her approach.

"I think my caddie tricked me a little bit, I think he put me more toward the right, more toward the pin because we agreed that we were going to the big Kia and that started at the pin, so I think he led me a little more to the right. I hit OK shot and I just missed the green and I made the putt. It's golf."

Recari went 59 holes before carding her first bogey in the tournament.

Kim bogeyed four of her last eight holes in regulation. A South Korean player, now based in Rancho Santa Fe, she won the last of her three LPGA Tour titles in 2010.

On the par-4 16th, Kim had a great drive to about 10 feet and fell to her knees as she just missed an eagle putt. □

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Hamlin has compression fracture in lower back

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

Denny Hamlin suffered a compression fracture in his lower spine during a last-lap crash while racing for the win against former teammate Joey Logano, and Joe Gibbs Racing gave no indication Monday how long its driver could be sidelined.

"I just want to go home," Hamlin tweeted from a hospital in Southern California. He later posted a photo of himself giving a thumbs-up and appeared to be wearing a back brace.

The team said he had what is called an L1 compression fracture; essentially, the first vertebra in the lumbar section of his spine collapsed. Hamlin was expected to be released from the hospital Monday and return to North Carolina to be evaluated by Dr. Jerry Petty of Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates.

NASCAR does not race this weekend, but returns to action April 7 at Martinsville Speedway, where Hamlin has four victories.

Hamlin was airlifted from the Fontana track after a collision with Logano on the penultimate turn sent him nearly head-on into the inside wall. Logano managed to finish third despite wrecking into the outside wall after hitting Hamlin, who spun Logano last week at Bristol and sparked a bitter post-race confrontation.

"He probably shouldn't have done what he did last week, so that's what he gets," Logano said Sunday after the race won by Kyle Busch.

On Monday, Logano's car owner said the driver was unaware of Hamlin's condition when he made the comment during a televi-

sion interview.

"That's a tough thing, Joey had no idea what the situation was with Denny when he was doing the interview," Roger Penske said. "It's one of those things that came out and taken out of context isn't what he meant. He can't take it back, but people are certainly blowing that up to mean something different than what he knew at the time."

Tony Stewart also got into a post-race shoving match with Logano, who aggressively blocked Stewart on a late restart. Stewart claimed Logano threw a water bottle at him when he approached, but crews separated the two before it turned into a full fight.

Stewart later railed against the 22-year-old Logano in several interviews and accused him of being "nothing but a little rich kid that's never had to work in his life."

Logano was 18 when he broke into NASCAR with Joe Gibbs Racing in 2008 with the nickname "Sliced Bread." He'd risen rapidly through the racing ranks with the financial backing from his father, Tom, who used funds from the family's Connecticut waste management company to help his two children pursue their dreams.

Logano had the means to pursue a racing career, and was in Georgia racing quarter midgets at the age of 6 while his older sister chased a life of competitive ice skating. But Tom Logano's near-constant presence at the NASCAR races hurt Logano's reputation, and him angrily demanding his son go after Kevin Harvick after a 2010 incident at Pocono only made things worse.



Rescue workers tend to the wreckage of the No. 11 FedEx Express Toyota driven by Denny Hamlin after he collided with Joey Logano on the final lap of the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race in Fontana, Calif., Sunday March 24, 2013.

Associated Press

On Monday, Patricia Driscoll, girlfriend of Kurt Busch, referred to Logano as (hash)TrustFundRacer in a series of tweets that accused him of reckless racing with "no less than 5 drivers."

"We were lucky that none of the others were hurt by his actions," Driscoll tweeted. An agitated Penske thought the criticism of Logano's upbringing was out of line.

"He's a solid young man and his family has supported him in racing as many families of professional athletes do in every sport," Penske said. "Anyone who looks at that as a criticism, to focus on that is just petty." He also said he supported his driver, who signed last year to join the Penske Racing organization as teammate to defending Sprint Cup Series champion Brad Keselowski. "Listen, Joey is a great driver and what happened at the end there wasn't anything more than hard racing," Penske said. "I stand behind him and I think he's

going to go down as one of the greatest drivers to ever race." It never developed at JGR, where Logano replaced Stewart in 2009 and was teammates with Busch and Hamlin. Signs of a rift between Hamlin and Logano didn't show publicly until after this year's season-opening Daytona 500, when the two exchanged barbs on Twitter.

Then came an on-track incident at Bristol last week, more exchanges on Twitter, and finally their last-lap battle for the win at Fontana. Although the crash seemed to be a result of hard racing, Logano's lack of empathy immediately after the race gave the impression his contact with Hamlin was intentional.

Hamlin got himself out of the car, but then slumped to the ground beside it before an ambulance arrived. He was eventually airlifted out due to traffic around the track. The injury is a bit more common in open-wheel racing, which has had three incidents of drivers breaking their backs

since 2009.

Will Power broke several vertebrae in his lower back in a 2009 crash during practice at Sonoma and missed that event and the final three races of the season. He couldn't train for two months and wore a back brace for almost four months.

He also suffered a compression fracture of his fourth thoracic vertebrae in the 2011 season finale at Las Vegas but missed no racing as he healed during the offseason.

Justin Wilson fractured his fifth thoracic vertebra in 2011 and missed the last six races of the season. Wilson said he was in a back brace for 10 weeks.

Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti fractured the L1 vertebrae in his back in a 2003 motorcycle accident. He needed surgery and was out of a race car for almost nine months. In NASCAR, Sterling Marlin missed the last seven races of the 2002 season with a fractured vertebra in his neck. □

Breakthroughs in heart repair sharper than surgeon's knife

M. MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Have a heart problem? If it's fixable, there's a good chance it can be done without surgery, using tiny tools and devices that are pushed through tubes into blood vessels.

Heart care is in the midst of a transformation. Many problems that once required sawing through the breastbone and opening up the chest for open heart surgery now can be treated with a nip, twist or patch through a tube.

These minimal procedures used to be done just to unclog arteries and correct less common heart rhythm problems. Now some patients are getting such repairs for valves, irregular heartbeats, holes in the heart and other defects — without major surgery.

Doctors even are testing ways to treat high blood pressure with some of these new approaches.

All rely on catheters — hollow tubes that let doctors burn away and reshape heart tissue or correct defects through small holes

into blood vessels.

"This is the replacement for the surgeon's knife. Instead of opening the chest, we're able to put catheters in through the leg, sometimes through the arm," said Dr. Spencer King of St. Joseph's Heart and

in a day or two can go home" rather than staying in the hospital while a big wound heals, he said. It may lead to cheaper treatment, although the initial cost of the novel devices often offsets the savings from shorter hospital

benefits from surgery do.

But already, these procedures have allowed many people too old or frail for an operation to get help for problems that otherwise would likely kill them.

"You can do these on 90-year-old patients," King said.

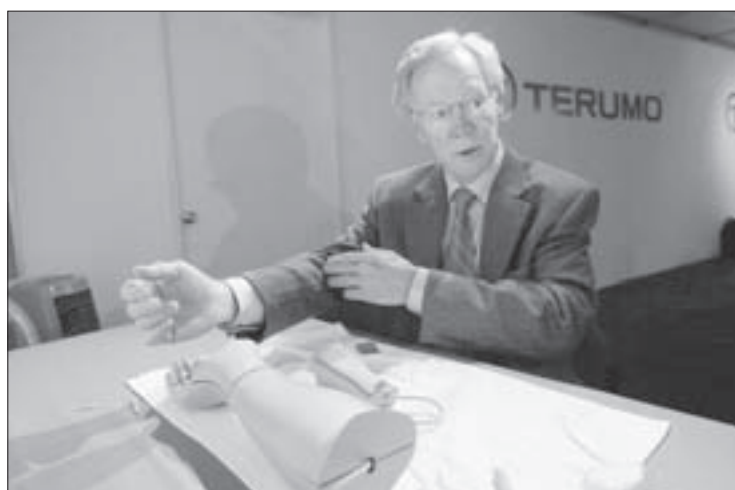
These methods also offer an option for people who cannot tolerate long-term use of blood thinners or other drugs to manage their conditions, or who don't get enough help from these medicines and are getting worse.

"It's opened up a whole new field," said Dr. Hadley Wilson, cardiology chief at Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte. "We can hopefully treat more patients more definitively, with better results."

For patients, this is crucial: Make sure you are evaluated by a "heart team" that includes a surgeon as well as other specialists who do less invasive treatments. Many patients now get whatever treatment is offered by whatever specialist they are sent to, and those specialists sometimes are rivals.

"We want to get away from that" and do whatever is best for the patient, said Dr. Timothy Gardner, a surgeon at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Delaware, and an American Heart Association spokesman. "There shouldn't be a rivalry in the field." Millions of people have leaky heart valves. Each year, more than 100,000 people in the United States alone have surgery for them. A common one is the aortic valve, the heart's main gate. It can stiffen and narrow, making the heart strain to push blood through it. Without a valve replacement operation, half of these patients die within two years, yet many are too weak to have one. "Essentially, this was a death sentence," said Dr. John Harold, a Los Angeles heart specialist who is president of the College of Cardiology.

That changed just over a year ago, when Edwards Lifesciences Corp. won approval to sell an artificial aortic valve flexible and small enough to fit into a catheter and be wedged inside the bad one. □



Atlanta cardiologist Dr. Spencer King demonstrates how doctors can open blocked heart arteries by going through an arm, using a model, at the American College of Cardiology conference in San Francisco.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Vascular Institute in Atlanta. He is former president of the American College of Cardiology. Its conference earlier this month featured research on these novel devices.

"Many patients after having this kind of procedure

stays.

Not everyone can have catheter treatment, and some promising devices have hit snags in testing. Others on the market now are so new that it will take several years to see if their results last as long as the

CDC: Infants fed solid food too soon

DOUGLAS QUENQUA

© 2013 New York Times

Despite growing warnings from pediatricians about feeding newborns anything other than breast milk or formula, many mothers appear to be introducing solid food well before their babies' bodies can handle it, says a study published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*. In a national survey of 1,334 mothers, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 40 percent said they gave their baby solid food before they were 4 months old, with 9 percent starting as early as 4 weeks. Doctors now recommend waiting until a baby is at least 6 months old.

For at least 20 years, the American Academy of Pediatrics had advised against feeding babies solid food before they turned at least 4 months old. Last

year, encouraged by growing evidence of the health benefits of breast milk, the group raised that age, saying babies should be fed nothing but breast milk for six months. When breast milk is not an option, formula is an acceptable alternative, the group says. But the survey suggests that mothers are not aware of the recommendations or find them difficult to follow. Popular reasons for giving solid food to babies before 4 months included "my baby is old enough," "my baby seemed hungry," "I wanted my baby to sleep longer at night" and — most alarming to researchers — "a doctor or health care professional said my baby should begin eating solid food."

"Clearly we need better dissemination of the recommendations on solid food introduction," said

Kelley Scanlon, an epidemiologist with the CDC and an author of the study. "Health care providers need to provide clear and accurate guidance, and then provide support to help parents carry out those recommended practices."

The study suggested that economics were a factor in the decision to introduce solid food, with poorer women who saw formula as too expensive more likely to feed solids too soon. Women who were feeding their children exclusively formula or a mix of formula and breast milk were not only more likely to introduce solid food early, but to say their doctors gave them the go-ahead.

"It makes me want to know more about the other advice that those parents were getting on infant feeding," Scanlon said. □

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T-Mobile gets rid of contracts for cellphones

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — T-Mobile USA, the struggling No. 4 cellphone company, is ditching plans centered on familiar two-year contracts in favor of selling phones on installment plans.

The company changed its website over the weekend to sell the new plans. It was set to lay out the rationale for the change on Tuesday at an event in New York.

T-Mobile has been losing subscribers from its contract-based plans for more than two years, chiefly to bigger competitors Verizon Wireless and AT&T. T-Mobile has done better with contract-less, prepaid plans, but those aren't as profitable for the company.

The new plan blurs the boundaries between the two types. Prepaid plans have lower monthly fees, but the buyer usually has to pay full or nearly full price for the phones. With T-Mobile's new plans, the initial phone-buying experience won't be much different from what it's like for contract plans, but customers could save money in the

long run.

For instance, someone who wants a Samsung Galaxy S III would pay \$70 upfront and then \$90 per month for unlimited calling, text and data. That monthly fee includes \$20 to pay off the cost of the phone over two years.

By separating the cost of the phone from the service, T-Mobile is making its plans and upgrade options easier to understand. When the phone is paid off, the \$20 fee in that example disappears. On traditional contract-based plans, the buyer is deemed to have "paid off" the phone after a certain period of time and become eligible for a new, subsidized phone, but the monthly payments don't decline.

As before, T-Mobile's prices

generally undercut those of the bigger phone companies. The chief downside is that its data network coverage is poorer in rural areas. T-Mobile stopped short of adopting shared-data plans that Verizon Wireless and AT&T introduced last year. Those plans allow

all of a family's devices to share a pool of monthly data usage. Instead, T-Mobile is selling data per line in three tiers. The talk and text portion of the plan comes with 500 megabytes of data usage per month. Adding \$10 bumps that to 2 gigabytes per month,

while adding \$20 provides unlimited data. A big part of the reason for the exodus of contract-signing customers from T-Mobile is that it, alone among the four national-level cellphone carriers, doesn't offer the iPhone. That's because its network has, until recently, not been able to offer high-speed data service to iPhones. It's now able to offer high-speed data to iPhones in some cities, and had been trying to persuade iPhone owners who have come off their contracts with AT&T to move the phones over to T-Mobile. □



A door is held open for a man entering the T-Mobile corporate headquarters in Bellevue, Wash.

Associated Press

Apple buys WiFi-location startup

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple has bought WiFISLAM, a startup that has been developing a way to use WiFi hotspots to help smartphones navigate large indoor spaces, like stores, airports and conference centers. The purchase is part of Apple's efforts to bolster its own mapping and location capabilities, after breaking up with Google Inc. last year.

The purchase was reported over the weekend by The Wall Street Journal, which said Apple Inc. paid \$20 million for the Silicon Valley company. Apple confirmed the purchase Monday but did not say how much it paid or why it wanted WiFISLAM.

WiFISLAM has shut down its website and closed its YouTube account.

Traditional methods of locating cellphones include

GPS and sensing of nearby cell towers. Neither of these approaches work well indoors. Retail chains are interested in helping shoppers find things in their stores, and apps that could help them navigate the aisles could be valuable. ABI Research estimates

that the market for "indoor retail location" aids will be worth \$5 billion in 2018. Apple initially relied on Google to supply the default mapping and location application for the iPhone, but launched its own "Maps" app last year. The features of Google's

iPhone app had been lagging those in the company's app for its own Android operating system. Among other things, the Android app included indoor navigation for some malls and airports. □

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Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke leaves following a news conference in Washington, following the Federal Open Market Committee meeting.
(AP Photo/Manuel Ceneta)

Bernanke: Low interest rate policies benefitting US trade

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday that the U.S. Federal Reserve's low-interest-rate policies are helping to boost growth around the world, and he rejected criticism that they could lead to a global currency war.

In a speech at the London School of Economics, Bernanke staunchly defended the central bank's policies and similar stimulus efforts pursued by other central banks since the 2008 financial crisis.

Last week, the Fed stood by its policies to keep borrowing costs at record lows, saying the U.S. economy still required the support to help lower high unemployment.

Critics have argued that the low-interest-rate policies could lower a country's currency value and make its products more competitive on global markets.

Some have blamed such policies for making the Great Depression worse during the 1930s. Countries devalued their currencies and raised tariffs, which made foreign-made goods more expensive and stunted trade. They became known as "beggar-thy-neighbor" policies. Bernanke argued that the situation is different today because the low-interest rate policies have the primary aim of boosting domestic growth, not trying to lower the value of a na-

tion's currency.

"Because stronger growth in each economy confers beneficial spillovers to trading policies, these policies are not 'beggar-thy-neighbor' but rather ... 'enrich-thy-neighbor' actions," Bernanke said.

The current efforts should support stronger trade flows, Bernanke said. By boosting growth in major economies, consumers can buy more imported goods from developing countries.

In addition to concerns about currency wars, critics have said the policies adopted by the Fed and other central banks could increase the risk of inflation and destabilize financial markets.

Panelist Axel Weber, a former president of Germany's central bank and now chairman of the board of Swiss bank UBS, spoke to those concerns. He said central banks will be pressed to develop policies that wind down their stimulus without triggering "even bigger problems."

During a question-and-answer session after the speech, Bernanke neither addressed Weber's concerns directly nor offered any hints about the direction of U.S. interest rates. But former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, another member of the panel and a supporter of the Fed's policies, said the biggest threats to the economy now are high unemployment. □

At Press Time:

Dell founder said to weigh Blackstone offer

MICHAEL J. de la MERCED
© 2013 New York Times

With the emergence of the Blackstone Group as a suitor for Dell, it appears that Michael S. Dell may have a change of heart about his plans to take the company he founded private.

He considers Blackstone's preliminary proposal to be potentially friendly to management and may reach out to the private equity firm later this week, a person briefed on the matter said on Monday.

Were he to switch, that would mean backing out of his \$24.4 billion proposal to take control of the company, made in partnership with the private equity firm Silver Lake.

The company has already committed to exploring "in good faith the possibility of working with third parties regarding alternative acquisition proposals," according to a news release that a special committee of Dell's board put out on Monday.

In many ways, Michael Dell's decision makes

sense. Because of his roughly 16 percent stake in the company, he would be an important part of any transaction. He has also agreed to contribute about \$750 million cash to the Silver Lake transaction. That huge stake also means that he stands to benefit from a higher bid for the company.

Moreover, Blackstone's proposal so far does not describe what management will look like should it succeed. But the buyout firm has been talking to potential replacements for the chief executive should Michael Dell step down or be kicked out.

Representatives for Michael Dell, Silver Lake and Blackstone declined to comment.

Both Blackstone and the other player in fight over control of Dell, activist investor Carl C. Icahn, are taking a different tack than Michael Dell and Silver Lake. Rather than taking Dell completely private, their deals would leave a piece of the company

public through what's known as a stub, which would allow shareholders to maintain a stake.

Blackstone is proposing a bid of more than \$14.25 a share, in conjunction with two technology investment firms, Francisco Partners and Insight Venture Partners. It did not indicate what percentage of the company would remain public, but shareholders would have the options to sell their entire stakes.

Icahn is laying out a bid of \$15 a share for about 58 percent of the company. As such, shareholders would be allowed to sell only some of their holdings. Under the proposal, Icahn would have a 24.1 percent stake in the company. Another big Dell shareholder, Southeastern Asset Management, which owns an 8.4 percent stake in the company and which has vocally opposed Michael Dell's offer, would have 16.6 percent and another major investor, T. Rowe Price, would have 9.3 percent. □

Slovak PM visits US Steel; no deal yet

KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Slovakia's Prime Minister met with U.S. Steel executives in Pittsburgh on Monday to discuss the future of a steel mill in Kosice, but no final agreement was announced.

Prime Minister Robert Fico said the purpose of his visit was "to motivate U.S. Steel to stay in Slovakia." Fico said he felt Monday's discussions went well and that a written agreement between the country and U.S. Steel may be signed as soon as Wednesday.

But U.S. Steel declined to comment on whether a deal may be close after Fico met with U.S. Steel CEO John Surma for about an hour.

Surma said only that he's confident "good progress" was made in the face of difficult operating conditions, and that he's grateful for the Slovak government's efforts. The talks are believed to include issues such as tax breaks and energy costs, which are far higher in Europe.

U.S. Steel bought the Kosice operations in 2000, but Europe's financial troubles have hurt demand for steel and profits at the plant. The plant, U.S. Steel's last overseas operation, employs about 12,500 people.

U.S. Steel has reportedly had purchase offers for the Kosice mill. On Monday, Fico said he didn't know of any efforts by Slovakian investors to buy the plant. □



The Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, center, walks ahead of his delegation from a meeting with executives of U.S. Steel to a news conference at the steelmakers' headquarters in Pittsburgh on Monday, March 25, 2013. Fico said the purpose of his visit was "to motivate U.S. Steel to stay in Slovakia."

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

US stocks slip on broad concern about Europe

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

Stocks reversed an early rise on Wall Street on Monday as traders returned to worrying about the European economy.

Optimism about a deal to prevent financial collapse in Cyprus had briefly pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index to within a quarter-point of its record closing high, but stocks soon turned negative.

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq composite index both closed down 0.3 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 0.4 percent. Stocks went negative about an hour into the trading day as the initial euphoria about Cyprus' deal to secure 10 billion euros in emergency funding was overshadowed by renewed concerns about the European economy.

The fear intensified after a top European official indicated that investors in struggling banks may be forced to take losses — an element of the Cyprus agreement that had previously been seen as unique to that country. All ten industry groups in the S&P 500 closed lower, with industrial and materials companies posting the biggest losses. Europe still needs a long-term economic fix, said David Kelly, chief global strategist at J.P. Morgan Funds. Business activity in the 17 nations using the euro has declined continually since



Trader Neil Catania works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, March 25, 2013. Stocks went negative about an hour into the trading day as the initial euphoria about Cyprus' deal to secure 10 billion euros in emergency funding was overshadowed by renewed concerns about the European economy.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

September 2011, according to research by Markit, a data provider. The region's economy shrank 0.6 percent in 2012, according to official government statistics.

Business activity in nations that use the euro contracted more quickly in March, according to Markit's closely-watched survey of purchasing executives,

which was published Thursday. The index had its worst decline in four months.

European policy makers have avoided a financial crisis by flooding the market with cash, but they haven't addressed economic hardship on the ground, Kelly said. In granting Cyprus' emergency rescue, for example, lenders demanded economic reforms, debt payments and a banking overhaul that will result in heavy losses for bank bondholders and shareholders. In addition, people with more than 100,000 euros in their accounts will lose up to 40 percent of their deposits. Kelly said that's tough to swallow for people facing high unemployment and government cutbacks in Greece, Italy, Spain and other countries that received bailouts. "If they're going to end up broke anyway," Kelly said, it will be "harder and harder for people to make the sacrifices that Europe is demanding of them." That could lead voters in bailed-out countries to resist lenders' terms, increasing politi-

cal and economic instability in Europe and weighing on global markets, he said. That concern intensified Monday after a key official indicated that the Cyprus rescue may serve as a model in other nations with struggling banks. "If the bank can't do it, then we'll talk to the shareholders and the bondholders, we'll ask them to contribute in recapitalizing the bank, and if necessary the uninsured deposit holders," said Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who chairs meetings of finance ministers from nations that use the euro, in an interview with the Financial Times and Reuters. Dijsselbloem's office confirmed the remarks. Wall Street had opened higher, following gains in Europe and Asia. At first, the deal to save Cyprus' banks erased the latest source of anxiety for investors, who have traded for more than three years under the cloud of a debt crisis in Europe. The fear is that a heavily indebted country will default on its financial obligations and be forced to exit the shared currency. □

Air France-KLM to replace top executives

PARIS (AP) — Air France-KLM's top two executives say they will step down in July as the struggling airline tries to turn its business around.

Chairman and CEO Jean-Cyril Spinetta will be re-

placed by Alexandre de Juniac, who is currently chief executive of Air France. Peter Hartman, who is CEO of KLM, will replace Leo Van Wijk as vice chairman of the Air France-KLM board.

The Franco-Dutch company lost 1.1 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) in 2012. It is struggling, in part, with factors outside its control: Europe's economic crisis, rising fuel costs and competition from low-cost airlines.

But the company is also trying to better manage its staff costs. Last year, it inked new, more flexible agreement with unions and it is also in the process of cutting 10 percent of its workforce. □

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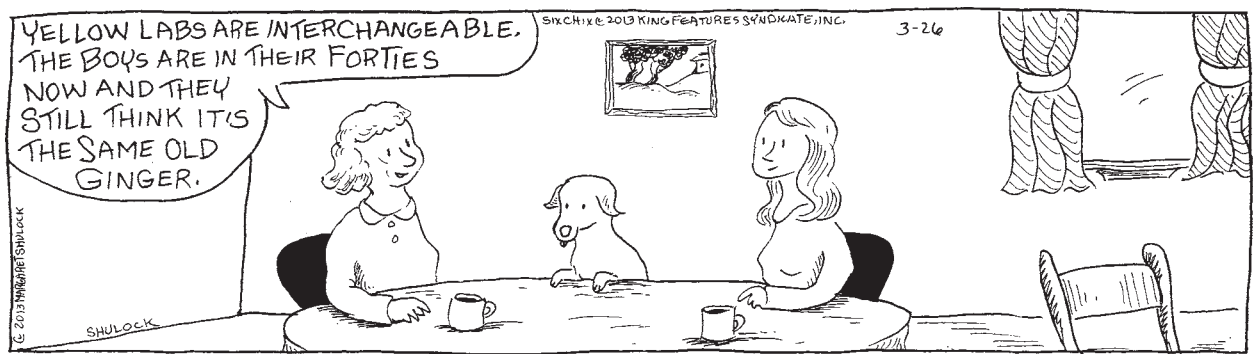


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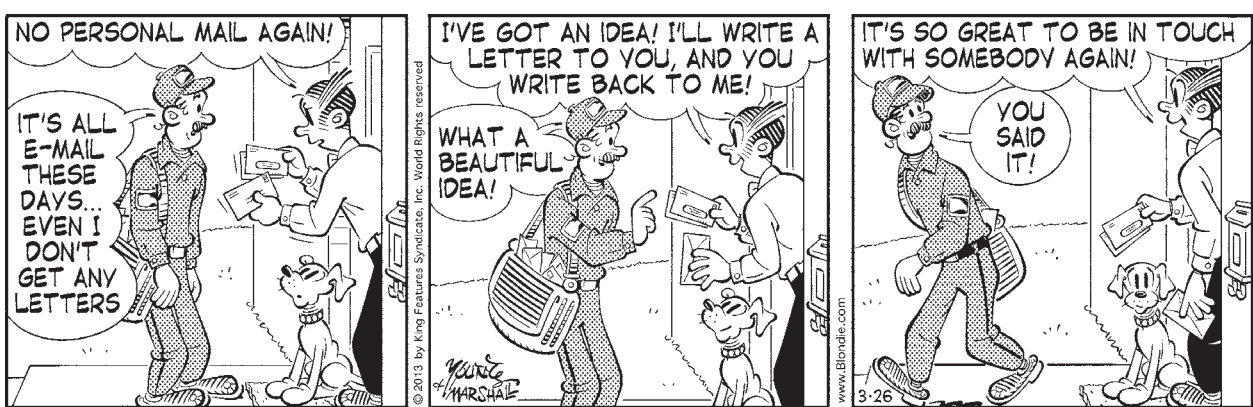
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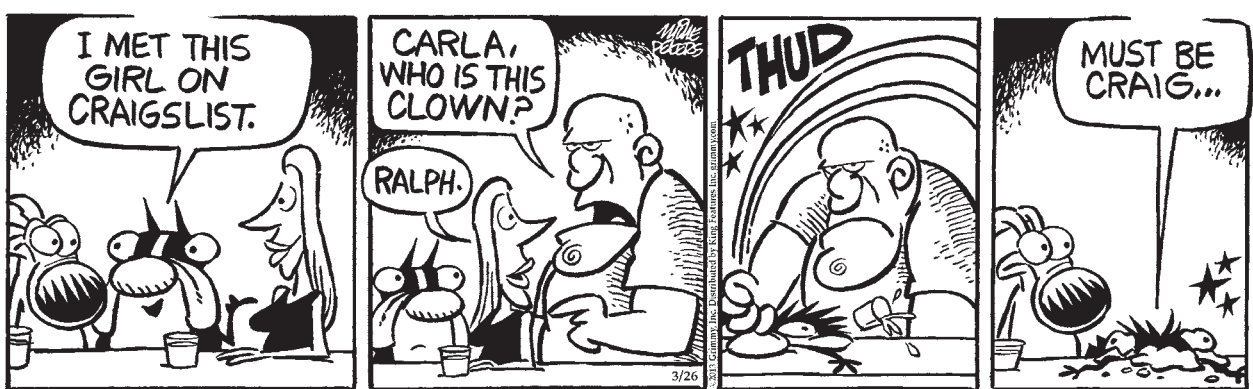
6 Chix



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Conceptis Sudoku

			4		8		9
	2		6		4		
			8			1	2
	3		2				
9		4			5		1
				5		7	
5	1		2				
		3		9		4	
8		6	3				

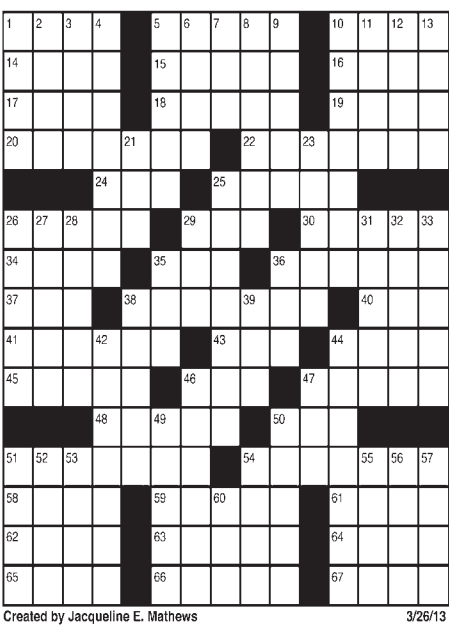
Difficulty Level ★★ 3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	5	3	2	1	8	7	9	6
8	9	1	7	4	6	2	3	5
2	6	7	5	9	3	1	4	8
9	1	4	3	8	5	6	2	7
6	8	2	4	7	1	9	5	3
3	7	5	6	2	9	8	1	4
7	2	8	9	3	4	5	6	1
1	3	6	8	5	2	4	7	9
5	4	9	1	6	7	3	8	2

- ACROSS
- 1 One of the Three Bears
 - 5 In the lead
 - 10 Competent
 - 14 Large kitchen appliance
 - 15 Learning ___ of Pisa
 - 16 Wall recess
 - 17 Mediocre
 - 18 Presentation at the Met
 - 19 Sticky strip
 - 20 Dual-colored
 - 22 Gave the cold shoulder to
 - 24 TV's "___ Haw"
 - 25 Bricklayer
 - 26 Jean-Claude Kilby, for one
 - 29 Four qts.
 - 30 Rule
 - 34 Sound of contentment
 - 35 Light brown
 - 36 Death
 - 37 "Much ___ About Nothing"
 - 38 Shy
 - 40 Hardware store chain
 - 41 Agree
 - 43 Fancy vase
 - 44 ___ on; trampled
 - 45 School composition
 - 46 Not ___ longer; no more
 - 47 Out of practice
 - 48 Fierce animal
 - 50 Hurry
 - 51 African hunting expeditions
 - 54 Steak and ___; pricey entrée
 - 58 Consumer
 - 59 Fencing sword
 - 61 Bird of peace
 - 62 Go out with
 - 63 Detroit team
 - 64 Copied
 - 65 Argument
 - 66 Make joyous
 - 67 Cravings



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/26/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

2 Declare openly	3 Mexican dollar	4 "One good turn deserves ___"	5 Do penance	6 Optimism	7 Female sheep	8 Roof antenna	9 Hauls behind	10 Opposite	11 Wild hog	12 Easy stride	13 ___ out a living; got by	21 Above, to poets	23 ___ Peace Prize	25 Police search for a criminal	26 Elbow room	27 Praise	28 Actor Jeremy	29 Argon or xenon	31 Dishonest folks	32 Famed English racecourse	33 Like neglected gardens	35 Paver's goo	36 Final bill	38 Purchaser	39 Cook in oil	42 Musical for Liza	44 Today	46 Attack violently	47 Curved bone	49 Walkway	50 Steed	51 Lather	52 "Immediately!" in the office	53 Greek cheese	54 Loaned	55 Drink too much	56 Tied, as scores	57 Ruby & scarlet	60 ___ constrictor; large snake
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Anthony Lewis, New York Times legal writer, dies at 85



Anthony Lewis, a New York Times reporter and columnist whose work won two Pulitzer Prizes and transformed American legal journalism, in 2001. Lewis died March 25, 2013. He was 85. (The New York Times)

ADAM LIPTAK

© 2013 New York Times

Anthony Lewis, a former New York Times reporter and columnist whose work won two Pulitzer Prizes and transformed American legal journalism, died on Monday at his home in Cambridge, Mass. He was 85. The cause was complications of renal and heart failure, said his wife, Margaret H. Marshall, a retired chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Lewis brought passionate engagement to his two great themes: justice and the role of the press in a democracy. His column, called "At Home Abroad" or "Abroad at Home" depending on where he was

writing from, appeared on the op-ed page of The Times from 1969 to 2001. His voice was liberal, learned, conversational and direct. "He brought context to the law," said Ronald K.L. Collins, a scholar at the University of Washington who compiled a bibliography of Lewis' work.

Lewis wrote several books, two of them classic accounts of landmark decisions of the Warren court, which he revered. Chief Justice Earl Warren led the Supreme Court from 1953 to 1969, corresponding almost precisely with Lewis' years in Washington. One of those books, "Gideon's Trumpet," concerned Gideon v. Wainwright, the 1963 decision that guaranteed lawyers to poor defendants charged with serious crimes. It has never been out of print since it was published in 1964.

In 1991, Lewis published "Make No Law," an account of New York Times v. Sullivan, the 1964 Supreme Court decision that revolutionized U.S. libel law. The Sullivan case, applying First Amendment principles to state libel law for the first time, ruled that public officials suing critics of their official conduct had to prove that the contested statements were made with "actual malice," meaning with knowledge of their falsity or with serious subjective doubts about their truth. □



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Early number sense plays role in later math skills

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — We know a lot about how babies learn to talk, and youngsters learn to read. Now scientists are unraveling the earliest building blocks of math — and what children know about numbers as they begin first grade seems to play a big role in how well they do everyday calculations later on.

The findings have specialists considering steps that parents might take to spur math abilities, just like they do to try to raise a good reader.

This isn't only about trying to improve the nation's math scores and attract kids to become engineers. It's far more basic.

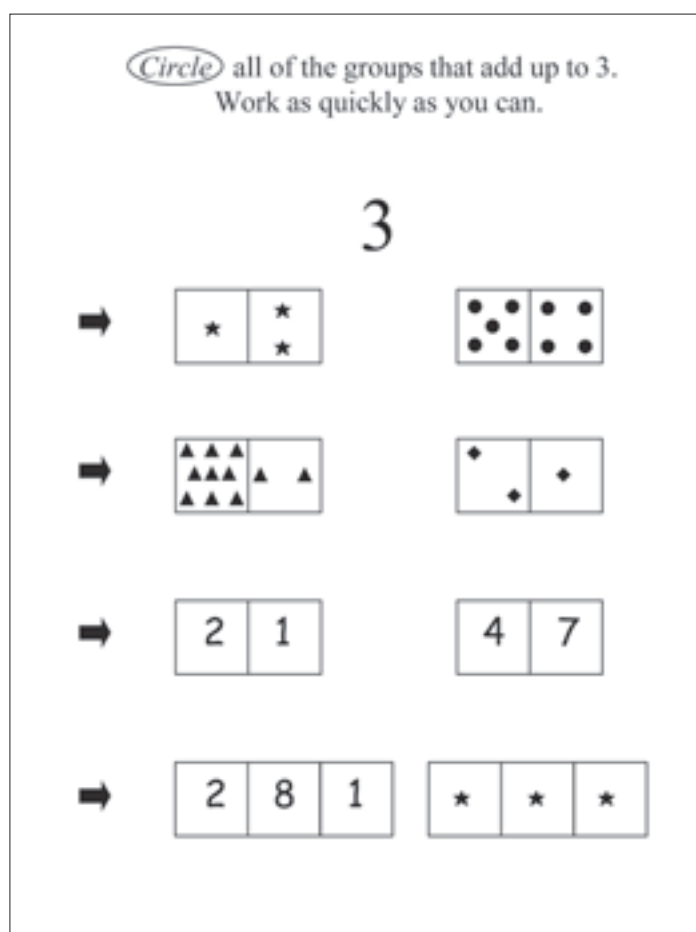
Consider: How rapidly can you calculate a tip? Do the fractions to double a recipe? Know how many coins the cashier should hand back as your change?

About 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. lacks the math competence expected of a middle-schooler, meaning they have trouble with those ordinary tasks and aren't qualified for many of today's jobs.

"It's not just, can you do well in school? It's how well can you do in your life," says Dr. Kathy Mann Koepke of the National Institutes of Health, which is funding much of this research into math cognition. "We are in the midst of math all the time."

A new study shows trouble can start early.

University of Missouri researchers tested 180 seventh-graders. Those who lagged behind their peers in a test of core math skills needed to function as adults were the same kids who'd had the least num-



This image provided by the University of Missouri shows an illustration part of a University of Missouri study that examined first-graders' "number system knowledge."

Associated Press

ber sense or fluency way back when they started first grade.

"The gap they started with, they don't close it," says Dr. David Geary, a cognitive psychologist who leads the study that is tracking children from kindergarten to high school in the Columbia, Missouri, school system. "They're not catching up" to the kids who started ahead.

If first grade sounds pretty young to be predicting math ability, well, no one expects tots to be scribbling sums. But this number sense, or what Geary more precisely terms "number system knowledge," turns out to be a fundamental skill that students continually build on, much more than the simple ability to count.

What's involved? Understanding that numbers represent different quantities — that three dots is the same as the numeral "3" or the word "three." Grasping magnitude — that 23 is bigger than 17. Getting the concept that numbers can be broken into parts — that 5 is the same as 2 and 3, or 4 and 1. Showing on a number line that the difference between 10 and 12 is the same as the difference

between 20 and 22.

Factors such as IQ and attention span didn't explain why some first-graders did better than others. Now Geary is studying if something that youngsters learn in preschool offers an advantage.

There's other evidence that math matters early in life. Numerous studies with young babies and a variety of animals show that a related ability — to estimate numbers without counting — is intuitive, sort of hard-wired in the brain, says Mann Koepke, of NIH's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

That's the ability that lets you choose the shortest grocery check-out line at a glance, or that guides a bird to the bush with the most berries.

Number system knowledge is more sophisticated, and the Missouri study shows children who start elementary school without those concepts "seem to struggle enormously," says Mann Koepke, who wasn't part of that research.

While schools tend to focus on math problems around third grade, and math learning disabilities often are diagnosed by fifth grade, the new findings suggest "the need to intervene is much earlier than we ever used to think," she adds.

Exactly how to intervene

still is being studied, sure to be a topic when NIH brings experts together this spring to assess what's known about math cognition.

But Geary sees a strong parallel with reading. Scientists have long known that preschoolers who know the names of letters and can better distinguish what sounds those letters make go on to read more easily. So parents today are advised to read to their children from birth, and many youngsters' books use rhyming to focus on sounds.

Likewise for math, "kids need to know number words" early on, he says.

NIH's Mann Koepke agrees, and offers some tips:

—Don't teach your toddler to count solely by reciting numbers. Attach numbers to a noun — "Here are five crayons: One crayon, two crayons..." or say "I need to buy two yogurts" as you pick them from the store shelf — so they'll absorb the quantity concept.

—Talk about distance: How many steps to your ball? The swing is farther away; it takes more steps.

—Describe shapes: The ellipse is round like a circle but flatter.

—As they grow, show children how math is part of daily life, as you make change, or measure ingredients, or decide how soon to leave for a destination 10 miles away. □

Mars rover back in action after computer problems

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Mars rover Curiosity is humming again after being stopped by back-to-back computer problems.

The six-wheel rover fired up its onboard laboratories and analyzed a pinch of rock dust over the weekend.

It had been unable to do science experiments since late last month after experiencing a computer memory problem.

Mission managers in the U.S. say Curiosity will work

for a week before it takes another break — this time planned — because the sun will block communications between Earth and Mars.

Before the computer problems, Curiosity drilled into a rock,

tested the powder and found it contained some of the chemical ingredients necessary for microbial life. There are plans to drill into another rock before setting off for a mountain later this year. □



An undated file image released by NASA shows a self-portrait of NASA's Mars rover Curiosity.

Associated Press

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This image released by AMC shows Bryan Cranston as Walter White at the fictional restaurant "Los Pollos Hermanos" in a scene from season 2 of the AMC series "Breaking Bad."

Associated Press

'Breaking Bad' script missing after car break-in

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Authorities in the U.S. have arrested a man who allegedly broke into "Breaking Bad" actor Bryan Cranston's car late last year and stole a script for the popular television show. Bernalillo County Sheriff's officials announced Monday that 29-year-old Xavier Macafee is being held on suspicion of burglary. They say none of the stolen items have been recovered, but detectives are investigat-

ing.

Sheriff's officials say Cranston's car was broken into Dec. 20 while it was parked at Sandia Peak in New Mexico. The award-winning AMC TV series is filming its fifth and final season. A call to AMC network officials for comment on the script theft wasn't immediately returned.

"Breaking Bad" follows Cranston's character, Walter White, producing and selling methamphetamine with a former student. □

Jolie meets with women, girls in eastern Congo

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Angelina Jolie is meeting with women and girls in eastern Congo, where sexual violence is rampant. Jolie, a special envoy for the U.N. refugee agency, traveled to the Nzulo camp near Goma on Monday along with British Foreign Secretary William Hague. The International Rescue Committee says it's provided care to more than 2,500 women and girls

who have been raped or abused over the last year alone. The IRC is handing out kits with flashlights and whistles, as well as cleaning products so that women can avoid bathing at creeks where the risk of assault is higher. Sexual violence is frequently used as a weapon of war by rebel groups that operate in eastern Congo, as well as by Congolese soldiers. □

In this Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 photo, World Wrestling Entertainment personality John Cena speaks at a news conference in East Rutherford, N.J., to announce that MetLife Stadium will host WrestleMania XXIX on April 7, 2013.

Associated Press

Film academy sets Oscar dates for 2014 and 2015

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Film fans can already mark their calendars for the Academy Awards in 2014 and 2015.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Monday that next year's Oscar ceremony will be held on March 2. The 2015 trophies will be handed out Feb. 22.

Awards shows, including the Oscars, are juggling their calendars to avoid overlap with the 2014 Winter Olympics, which will be held Feb. 7 to 23 in Sochi, Russia.

Nominations for the 86th annual Academy Awards will be announced Jan. 16,



This Feb. 24, 2013 file photo shows Daniel Day-Lewis and Meryl Streep in the press room at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

2014.

Both the 2014 and 2015 Oscar ceremonies will be

held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and broadcast live on ABC. □

WWE helps launch Superstars for Sandy Relief

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — WWE is joining with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Hollywood celebrities and professional athletes to launch Superstars for Sandy Relief.

Fans can bid on hundreds of items in an online auction, including attending a NASCAR race with WWE wrestling superstar John Cena, meeting Tyra Banks on the set of "America's Next Top Model," or pitching entrepreneurial ideas to Mark Cuban. The auction begins Monday and

closes April 9 on charitybuzz.com.

WWE is based in Stamford, Connecticut. The storm last October left millions of people without heat or electricity for weeks in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

Paul Levesque, executive vice president of talent and live events, better known in the ring as Triple H, says he can't think of a better way to celebrate WWE's annual WrestleMania event than using the group's global reach to assist those in need.

Wrestlemania will be held April 7 at MetLife Stadium

in New Jersey. "It's like a homecoming for us, and since there's still a lot of devastation, we felt the best thing we could do is reach out to not only our own superstars to our celebrity contacts and our sports contacts. There's a lot of people that are fans of the WWE in those worlds," Levesque said.

"Our chairman, Vince McMahon, has a saying that everybody in this company ... their job at the end of the day is to put smiles on people's faces," he said. "It sounds corny and cliché, but it really is how we operate here."

Levesque asked his fellow superstars what they wanted to do for the auction.

"Who would have thought Ryback would say, 'I'll go bowling with someone.' Cena loves NASCAR, so that was more expected," he said. There will also be a Superstars for Sandy Relief reception at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City on April 4, hosted by Sean "Diddy" Combs. □



Leonardo da Vinci gets 'Batman' treatment on Starz

FRAZIER MOORE,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In these 500 years since Leonardo da Vinci, he has upstaged every genius multi-tasker in his wake.

Da Vinci was a whiz as a painter (hint: "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper"), a scientist and engineer, and a futurist dead-set on fighting the gravitational pull of his own times.

He was an intellect, free thinker, vegetarian and a humanist who supported himself designing weapons of war.

He was tall, handsome and a hit with the ladies. He was great with a sword and, being ambidextrous, which hand didn't matter. "The phrase 'Renaissance Man' was derived from him," says David S. Goyer, who has spent a lot of time studying and pondering him, and has created "Da Vinci's Demons," a sci-fi thriller set in the 1400s.

Another cool thing about da Vinci: He was a man of intrigue, ensconced in secret societies, his paternity unresolved (he was born out of wedlock), perhaps divinely inspired as he clashed with the Roman Catholic Church — a man



This publicity image released by Starz shows Tom Riley as Leonardo Da Vinci in a scene from "Da Vinci's Demons," premiering Friday, April 12 at 10 p.m. EST on Starz.

Associated Press

who seemed to defy the confinements of any simple narrative.

"There's a tantalizing five-year gap, stretching from when he was 27 to 32, where there's almost no record of where he was or what he was doing," says Goyer. "A gap like that is gold when you're the creator of this show."

"Da Vinci's Demons," which premieres on the Starz network on April 12, is a "historical fantasy," says Goyer, who should be up to the challenge.

Born and raised in Michigan, he remembers spending half each Saturday in a comic book shop, the oth-

er half at the city's library. Now 47, he is wiry and balding and bears a striking resemblance to the actor Stanley Tucci, whom he says he's never met but is often mistaken for.

His credits include the short-lived but ambitious sci-fi thriller "FlashForward," which prematurely fell prey to meddling by its network, ABC.

He was script consultant and story developer for the video game "Call of Duty: Black Ops" and its sequel. He co-wrote the 2005 film "Batman Begins" and its two sequels, and wrote the screenplay for the upcoming Zack Snyder-directed

"Man of Steel."

In Goyer's view, da Vinci was the prototype of a superhero: "I picture him as one-third Indiana Jones, one-third Sherlock Holmes, one-third Tony Stark (Iron Man) — and he kind of was."

To play this extraordinary chap, Goyer chose English-born actor Tom Riley. The 31-year-old starred in the British TV medical drama "Monroe," and in 2011 performed on Broadway in the revival of Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia" alongside Billy Crudup and Raul Esparza.

Riley's da Vinci is sexy, mercurial and irrepressible. He savors life in his native Florence: "Chaos and culture are celebrated within these walls," he says lustily. "Florence only demands one thing of its people — to be truly awake!"

But da Vinci suffers from being too awake. He is too driven, too full of ideas, too haunted by doubts about his life's intended mission. He is no stranger to opium, which he uses, he explains, because "I think too much. I need to dull my thoughts or I will be eviscerated by them."

At times he overreaches,

stumbles and falls (though ever so dashing). And he has an eye for a pretty face, including — at high risk — comely Lucrezia Donati (Laura Haddock), the mistress of Lorenzo di Medici (Elliot Cowan), da Vinci's benefactor and one of the city's most powerful figures.

He has an answer for everything, including an accuser who brands him "arrogant."

"Arrogance implies that I exaggerate my own worth," da Vinci fires back. "I don't."

Goyer says he hit upon doing a show about da Vinci only by chance. He had never done anything historical before, and when asked by Starz to create a drama focused on some towering figure from the past, he first demurred.

"I said, 'I'm not — no offense — interested in doing a kind of dry, BBC historical drama.' And they said, 'No, no, no. We don't want THAT!'"

A number of possible candidates were considered for what was now envisioned as a "reinvention-of-history show."

There was Cleopatra and Genghis Kahn, "and also on that short list, da Vinci came up," recalls Goyer. "Then I realized, no one's ever done a show about da Vinci! That's crazy! People say he's the most recognized figure in history other than Jesus Christ!"

To prepare for the series, Goyer says he read dozens of biographies, da Vinci's journal pages and many of his letters.

He has written or co-written all eight episodes of season one (with work well under way on a second season's scripts), and directed the first two episodes of the show, which shoots in Wales.

Recapturing 15th-century Florence, not to mention the highfalutin exploits of da Vinci, demands impressive visual effects, and Goyer set the bar high: "My goal was to be at least on par with the production values of 'Game of Thrones,'" he says. □

Tilda Swinton takes an artful nap at MoMA

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not the kind of performance that will win her another Academy Award, but British actress Tilda Swinton certainly has people buzzing at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

But keep quiet, please. She's trying to sleep.

The "Moonrise Kingdom" star has been engaging in a different kind of performance art. She's presenting a one-person piece called "The Maybe," in which she lies sleeping in a glass box for the day. The first performance was over the weekend, and the museum won't say when it will come back for six more performances.

On Monday, the display drew a line of spectators. Erwin Aschenbrenner, a

bemused German tourist, said it was "just what you'd expect to see at MoMA."

The actress "is so pale and not moving in there that she looks like she's dead," said Robbie von Kampen, 20.

After about seven hours a

day on a white mattress in the glass box — with only a carafe of water and a glass to get her through — Swinton can stretch and walk away. But only when spectators leave.

So what's the point?

"This makes me think about

myself, looking at her," said Quinn Moreland, 20. "You don't usually get to stare at somebody like this; it makes me self-conscious."

"Yeah, it's socially unacceptable — it's kinda creepy," von Kampen said. No one, not even museum curators, could say whether the mostly immobile Swinton is actually getting some sleep while people stare.

She wore a pair of grubby sneakers, dark sporty slacks and a checkered shirt.

Her glasses lay on the mattress.

Swinton also starred in a glass box in 1995 at London's Serpentine Gallery — seven days, eight hours a day — in an exhibition seen by 22,000 people.

The next year, she repeated the spectacle at the Museo Barracco in Rome. □



Actress Tilda Swinton performs the art of sleeping in her one-person piece called "The Maybe," in New York's Museum of Modern Art, Monday, March 25, 2013.

Associated Press

Israel: Bits, Bytes And Bombs



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Reading the news from the wider Middle East and then watching U.S. President Barack Obama visiting Israel triggered this thought: The president looked as if he were visiting an atoll in the Pacific, or maybe New Zealand – but definitely some kind of island state surrounded by roiling seas. Ari Shavit of the daily Haaretz captured this mood in his column the other day, which began: “A few months ago Amnon Dankner published a sharp, amusing article in the new newspaper Sof Hashavua. He described how Shimon Peres’ innovative technological project causes Israel to detach from the Middle East and sail westward through the Mediterranean Sea, like a sort of floating island. Laughter aside, Dankner nailed the spirit of the time. In recent years Israel has been feeling, thinking and behaving as though it is no longer located in West Asia and can exist as an island that has broken off from it. As if there was no Arab world, no Palestine, no Iran. No Arabs, no settlers, no occupation.”

In fact, while Obama was in Israel, there was a report that chemical weapons were used next door in Syria and rockets were fired into Israel from next door in Gaza. But, at the very same time, Globes, Israel’s business newspaper, published this item: “Accel Partners has completed the closing of Accel London IV, a \$475 million fund focused on Europe and Israel. . . . Accel London IV will invest in the firm’s core areas of expertise, including consumer Internet, big data, cloud, SaaS and mobile. Accel partner Kevin Comolli said, ‘The fact that Accel London IV was raised in eight weeks and was significantly over-subscribed is a powerful endorsement of Accel London and the market opportunity in Europe and Israel.’”

Rockets arrive from Gaza in the morning and venture capital from London in the afternoon. Israel’s ability to live as if it were disconnected from the rest of the region is impressive and necessary. It’s also illusory and dangerous.

It’s impressive and necessary because Israel is the only country in the world today that has nonstate actors, armed with missiles, nested among civilians on four out of five of its borders: the Sinai, Gaza, southern Lebanon and Syria. Beyond them lies a hinterland of states consumed by internal turmoil, and Iran. Yet Israel has managed to juggle bits, bytes and bombs – with high walls that neutralize its enemies and high-tech that nourishes its economy.

But there is a fine line between keeping danger out and locking fantasy in, between keeping your people alive and keeping crazy dreams alive. Israel is close to crossing that line.

The dangerous illusion Israel is dwelling in, argues Shavit, is the notion that “it can live like an autarky with no relation to the environment.” But no nation can do that, he argued, “certainly not a nation in which 6 million Jews share the land with more than 5 million Palestinians. Certainly not a nation that insists, even in the second decade of the third millennium, on occupying another nation.”

Indeed, the crazy dream Israel is keeping alive is that it can permanently occupy the West Bank, with its 2.5 million Palestinians, to satisfy biblically inspired settlers, who now hold major Cabinet positions, like the housing portfolio, in Israel’s new government. With nearly 600,000 Israelis now living in Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the window for a two-state solution “is slowly vanishing from the Earth,” notes the Hebrew University philosopher Moshe Halbertal. Amazingly, polls still show a majority on both sides for a two-state deal, “but there is a deep trust problem” that has to be overcome – fast. Nahum Barnea, the veteran Israeli columnist of Yediot Aharanot, told me Obama made a real “breakthrough” to the Israeli public with his speech on Thursday. “If he was considered an enemy before, he is now considered a friend,” said Barnea. “Even those who still disagree with him don’t think he has bad intentions toward Israel.”

Obama embraced Israelis with both understanding and honesty. He noted in his speech: “As Ariel Sharon said – I’m quoting him – ‘It is impossible to have a Jewish democratic state ((and)), at the same time to control all of ((the land of)) Israel. If we insist on fulfilling the dream in its entirety, we are liable to lose it all.’” Which is why Palestinians need to drop all their preconditions and enter negotiations and Israel needs to halt settlements and test and test again whether President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority can deliver. Thanks to their cooperation with the Israeli security services, no Israeli was killed in the West Bank by terrorism in 2012. But Palestinians won’t sustain that restraint without movement toward a Palestinian state.

The best way for Israel to deal with the chaos around it is not to put its head in the sand but to collaborate with Palestinians to build a West Bank state that is modern, secular and Westernizing; one where Muslims, Christians and Jews can work together and that stands in daily refutation of the failing Hamas/Muslim Brotherhood models elsewhere. If Israelis and Palestinians do not try everything – now – to make that happen, this will be remembered not as a lost opportunity but as the lost opportunity, and no island will escape the storm that will follow. □



The Obama Era, Sponsored By The Iraq War



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2013 New York Times

When prominent people in Washington spend an anniversary apologizing for being catastrophically, unforgivably wrong about a decade-old decision, you might expect that the decision in question had delivered their party to disaster or defeat. But last week’s many Iraq war mea culpas were rich in irony: One by one, prominent liberals lined up to apologize for supporting a war that’s responsible for liberalism’s current political and cultural ascendance.

History is too contingent to say that, had there been no Iraq invasion in 2003, there would be no Democratic majority in 2012. (It’s easy enough to imagine counterfactuals that might have put Hillary Clinton in the Oval Office.) But the Democratic majority that we do have is a majority that the Iraq war created: Its energy and strategies, its leadership and policy goals, and even its cultural advantages were forged in the backlash against George W. Bush’s Middle East policies.

All those now-apologetic liberals who supported the war in 2003 are a big part of this story, because without their hawkishness there would have been no anti-war rebellion on the left – no Michael Moore and Howard Dean, no Daily Kos and all its “netroots” imitators.

This rebellion divided the Democrats, but it also energized them. During the long Reagan era, American liberalism was an ossified establishment pitted against a successful right-wing insurgency.

But the anti-Iraq war insurgency

created something new in modern politics – a kind of “movement liberalism” that thought of itself in the same scrappy, ideologically driven terms as the conservative movement, and that was determined to imitate conservatism’s tactics, institutions and success. Had the Iraq invasion turned out differently, this movement and the Democratic establishment might have spent a decade locked in conflict.

But when the weapons of mass destruction didn’t turn up and the occupation turned into a fiasco, the two wings of the party made peace: The establishment embraced the grass roots’ anti-Bush fervor, and the insurgents helped transform liberalism’s infrastructure and organizing and communication.

This synthesis was then solidified by the Obama campaign. Barack Obama the candidate convinced both the insurgents (who originally preferred John Edwards) and the Hillary-favoring establishment that he was one of them, and his team leveraged grass-roots enthusiasm and on-line savvy to build the juggernaut that won in 2008 and 2012.

But Obama didn’t just benefit from the zeal that entered the Democratic Party through the anti-war movement; he also benefited from the domestic policy vacuum left by Bush’s Iraq-ruined second term. The Bush White House’s “compassionate conservatism” was the last major Republican attempt to claim the political center – to balance traditional conservative goals on taxes and entitlement reform with more bipartisan appeals on education, health care, immigration and poverty. And as long as the Republican Party was successfully hovering near the middle, the Democrats had to hover there as well.

But once Bush’s foreign policy credibility collapsed, his domestic political capital collapsed as well: Moderates stopped working with him, conservatives rebelled

and the White House’s planned second-term agenda – Social Security reform, tax and health care reform, immigration overhaul – never happened.

This collapse, and the Republican Party’s failure to recover from it, enabled the Democrats to not only seize the center but to push it leftward, and advance far bolder proposals than either Al Gore or John Kerry had dared to offer. The Iraq war didn’t just make Obama possible – it made Obamacare possible as well.

Nor is it a coincidence that these liberal policy victories have been accompanied by liberal gains in the culture wars.

True, there’s no necessary connection between the Bush administration’s Iraq floundering and, say, the right’s setbacks in the gay-marriage debate. But cultural change is a complicated thing, built on narratives and symbols and intuitive leaps.

As The American Conservative’s Dan McCarthy noted in a shrewd essay, the Vietnam War helped entrench a narrative in which liberal social movements were associated with defeat in Indochina – and this association didn’t have to be perfectly fair to be politically and culturally potent.

In a similar way, even though Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney weren’t culture warriors or evangelical Christians, in the popular imagination their legacy of incompetence has become a reason to reject social conservatism as well. Just as the post-Vietnam Democrats came to be regarded as incompetent, wimpy and dangerously radical all at once, since 2004 the Bush administration’s blunders – the missing WMD, the botched occupation – have been woven into a larger story about Youth and Science and Reason and Diversity triumphing over Old White Male Faith-Based Cluelessness. Of all the Iraq war’s consequences for our politics, it’s this narrative that may be the war’s most lasting legacy, and the most difficult for conservatives to overcome. □



Louis Vuitton presents Daniel Arsham's inspirations of Easter Island

ORANJESTAD - Louis Vuitton Boutique Aruba, located at Renaissance Mall, is proud to announce the Maison's latest addition to its collection of fine publications, which will be available as of May 2013. The Louis Vuitton Travel Book is a new and original approach to travel books, that can be described by being somewhere between the travel journal and the sketch book.

Each artist confronts an unfamiliar place with a viewpoint sharpened by the surprise of the unknown or stimulated by the pleasure of rediscovery. This vision of a place as a blank, unlined page inspires incisive commentaries that may be narrative, affectionate, satirical or picturesque. The Congolese artist Chéri Samba shows us Paris; the American Daniel Arsham, Easter Island; the Frenchman JeanPhilippe Delhomme, New York; and the young Japanese illustrator Natsko Seki, London. Scheduled for publication



The young American, born in 1980, studied at New York's Cooper Union, a college with art, architecture and engineering programs. Exposure to such a variety of disciplines helped Arsham explore new vocabularies. He made dream-like gouaches with the illustration tools and techniques used by city planners, using Mylar film and watercolor, and paying attention to perspective and subtle nuances that

the Renaissance, the dramatic engravings of Piranesi and the radical purity of Modernism. In this way, Arsham built his own language.

With architectural forms that move from paper toward reality, he interrogates the surface of things, eroding the structures that surround him and deconstructing and remodeling them. His white fiberglass sculptures distort walls, stretching, draping, melting and exploding them. And, in his gouaches, he continues to experiment with materials with his clean lines and meticulous details.

Arsham's enigmatic artistic approach quickly attracted the interest of institutions and art world figures, including Bonnie Clearwater, director of MoCA Miami, Hedi Slimane, when

he was creative director for Dior Homme, and the choreographer Merce Cunningham — who asked him to design the set, lighting and costumes for "eyeSpace," a piece for which the young artist conceived of space as an ephemeral performance. Through his Snarkitecture studio, he creates spaces that combine art, architecture and design. His deliberately multidisciplinary projects remain difficult to define. He plunges them in the mystery of ruins and lost civilizations, and then projects them into the future, like an architect turned archaeologist.

Each Travel book is published in a limited edition, numbered 1 to 50 available exclusively in a selection of Louis Vuitton stores. This original edition comprises Easter Island, London, New York and Paris, bound in leather, and an original drawing by the artist printed on Velind'Arches paper. The box and leather binding were crafted in the purest tradition at the Opus Many Factum workshops in Padua. The drawings were

printed in the studio of Arte-Jules Maeght, Paris, in February 2013. Each copy is signed by the artist. □



in 2014 are Venice by Jiro Taniguchi and Vietnam by Lorenzo Mattotti.

Even as a child, Daniel Arsham dreamed of building cities, of impossible constructions and futuristic landscapes.

seem to make light shimmer.

In his dark gouaches, he imagined a cosmogony in touches of gray and black, a melancholy world full of monolithic ruins or islands battered by apocalyptic tornadoes. His drawings evoke antiquity and

